

Hon. James C. Napier

A Gentleman in Politics

By KELLY MILLER

James C. Napier was born in 1845, 12 hours after Andrew Jackson died. He is and was contemporary with twenty-four of our thirty-one presidents. His life covers the most vital phases of American history in the making. It certainly touches every phase of the Negro problem from the days of slavery to the present degree of liberty and progress.

In 1855 a private school for colored children, of which he was a pupil, was closed by order of the City Council of Nashville as being contrary to the laws of the State of Tennessee. He was then sent by his parents to Wilberforce University, a school established in Ohio for the education of colored children. From Wilberforce he went to Oberlin, and from Oberlin to Howard University, where he completed his course in law in 1872. Immediately upon graduation, he returned to Nashville and entered the Revenue Service where he remained till 1885, when Grover Cleveland became President of the United States, effecting a change in political fortune. He rose to high station in the revenue service, performing every function of that branch of the service except that of Collector. Upon retirement from office he entered upon the practice of law in Nashville, and remains an honored member of the Bar till this very day.

Always evincing a business turn of mind, he joined with Booker Washington in the formation and development of the National Business League whose fortune he followed and fostered for twenty-five years when his name was shifted from the active to the honorary list of advocates and supporters. In 1903, he organized the Nashville Penny Savings Bank which, last year, celebrated its thirtieth anniversary and still evinces a strong and healthy existence, having survived the shock which well nigh wrecked the banking world. In his ninetieth year, he still heads this financial institution.

During Mr. Napier's entire public life, now covering more than sixty years, he has taken active part in politics. In 1878 he was elected to the City Council of Nashville, and, miraculous to narrate, he presided on occasions, over the same

body, by whose decree he was denied the privilege of schooling during his annual visits to attend twenty years previously. He secured the meeting of the Trustee Board of colored teachers for the public schools of Nashville to supplant the white preceptors who had performed that function until then. This all occurred in the days of Reconstruction.

Mr. Napier was influential in state politics and was for many years a member of the State Central Committee, and, if I mistake not, was for a time chairman of that political organization. President Roosevelt offered him the Counselship to Bahai, Brazil, which he declined. He was proffered the ministership to Liberia by President Taft, which he also declined. Booker Washington was political spokesman and referee in those days. Chiefly through his good offices, Mr. Napier was appointed Registrar of the Treasury in which capacity he served with honor and distinction during the remainder of President Taft's administration and for nine months under Woodrow Wilson. He enjoyed the confidence and esteem of the Secretaries of the Treasury and of other high officials under both Republican and Democratic administrations.

Mr. Napier was deeply interested in the educational and civic welfare of the race. He is a member of the Trustee Boards of Howard and Fisk Universities. He is also a member of the Jeans Fund and a life member of the Business League.

During his entire political life, it can truthfully be said of him what can hardly be truthfully repeated of many other Negro politicians, that he never received one cent for his political participations, not even his legitimate expenses. Verily, verily, he has his reward in the faith, confidence and esteem which he universally enjoys. He is esteemed and appreciated alike by North and South, white and black, Republicans and Democrats, as a dignified, upright, uncorrupted and incorruptible Negro in public life.

Mr. Napier was married to the daughter of the Hon. John M. Langston in 1878. From then till now they have been that happy pair which may well be described as two souls with but a single thought; two hearts that beats as one. A somewhat personal touch will give the picture human and romantic interest. In 1915, I purchased the old Langston homestead from the heirs of whom Mr. Napier was the negotiating representative. He occupied the homestead during the time he

she belongs where our daughter, Miss May Miller, was to read her play on Harriett Tubman, which she had recently written for a college dramatic club. Mr. and Mrs. Napier was invited to be present. Upon the conclusion of the program, Mr. Napier, exercising the right of the nongenerian, asked the gathering the privilege to do as he pleased for a few minutes. The request was graciously granted. He then took Mrs. Napier by the arm and escorted her to the very spot in the room where, fifty-six years ago, they were pronounced man and wife. The happy pair then proceeded to visit Mrs. Napier's old room where there is engraved on the window pane the engagement ring and the date of betrothal.

"An Appreciation" To Race Women By Noted Va. College

Staunton, Va.—Mary Baldwin college, noted Virginia school for girls, located here, has just issued an appreciation in memory of Mrs. Mary Scott, a remarkable colored woman who in the capacity of maid, was for twenty-four years a valued member of the institution's staff. The eight page memorial, with a picture of Mrs. Scott on the title page, contains a brief story of her life and glowing tributes to her character and usefulness by the president, the dean and the registrar of the college, and by the president of the student body.

THE AFRICAN PROBLEM

THE AFRICAN TO-DAY. By Diedrich Westermann. Oxford: The University Press. Pp. xv. 343. 7s. 6d. net.

Dr. Westermann writes of Africa with high authority. Few men living have a fuller knowledge of the African problem in its linguistic, racial, cultural and educational aspects. Any discussion of it from his pen must be greeted with respectful welcome. "The African To-day" is the fine fruit of years of study and experience by a mind of exceptional range and, in certain directions, of exceptional power. Its interest is increased from the circumstance that it is in a sense an account of the *raison d'être* and the objects of the International Institute of African Languages and Cultures. It is an admirably balanced summary of the main phases of native African life and of the effects upon them of the penetration of Western civilisation, so far as these complicated matters are at present understood; and it indicates the main directions in which further study and investigation are needed in order to increase understanding. Not the least of its many merits is the passionless impartiality with which it traverses controversial ground, and which only errs, if it errs at all, on the side of anxiety to avoid offence.

These qualities, however, carry within them corresponding defects, and one rises from a reading of the book with uneasy questionings as to the fertility of the objective and scientific approach to the urgent practical problems at which modern Africa presents. Dr. Westermann's basic attitude is given in a sufficient definition in a phrase where he speaks of the fruitlessness of efforts which "have nothing in common with scientific research and therefore lead nowhere." He more than suggests that time is little or no object in dealing with the African problem, and that in any case years of anthropological research are needed before any adequate African policy can be formulated. There are assumptions here which challenge a philosophic critique. Detached and colourless inquiry is, of course, invaluable—an essential preliminary to the planning of sound action. But there are other essentials

too. Science, like patriotism, is not enough, and, like patriotism, it can easily be overdone. There is a point where the spirit of scientific detachment becomes irrelevant, where impartiality becomes a limitation, and where thought's creative faculty must supersede the analytic if human effort is not to subside into sterility. It is possible, as Shelley warned us, to eat more knowledge than we can digest or transmute into practice. The intemperate accumulation of facts may come to suffocate the poetry that dwells in every balanced system of thought. A greater need than scientific impartiality is "the poetry of life, the generous impulse to act that which we imagine." Over and above objective investigation the African problem cries aloud for constructive leadership capable of entertaining the poetry that "redeems from decay the visitations of the divinity in man" and is unafraid to summon the world along the path which the imagination points out. There is a danger that Dr. Westermann's book may, perhaps unwittingly, have the practical effect of encouraging political and administrative inertia. It is indispensable, but it calls for a rejoinder which should also be its complement. L. B.

TODAY'S BOOK

REBEL DESTINY, by Melville J. and Frances S. Herskovits. Whittlesey House, McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York. 356 pp. \$3.

Reviewed by A. B. BERND

The Negro slaves brought to the New World in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries were not all so docile as those whose descendants were freed by Abraham Lincoln. There were for instance the abducted blacks sold to plantation owners in Dutch Guiana or Suriname, at the northeastern corner of South America. Bondage fretted them; and fleeing from the coastal plains in great numbers, they took to the seat of the Granman, at the last Negro village on the jungle's edge. Here the leader received and entertained them; and here they learned much of Suriname life that previously had been hidden from them. This account of their trip, with all the sidelights of anecdote and discussion of native arts, language and custom, has a tremendous advantage over the usual travel-tale. Done in a light, easy style which surely no mere professor of anthropology could have written (one suspects Mrs. Herskovits of the actual penning), the narrative shows throughout the deep scientific knowledge and inquiring mind that only a trained investigator could contribute. There are many photographic illustrations, but—this passes without understanding—not a one that shows either of the authors.

The government capitulated. After half a century of fruitless effort, treaties were signed. The Negroes became free men in their bush. Their leader and certain of their village chiefs we recognized. To each of these the Dutch Crown granted "a uniform, a high hat, a crescent with the arms of Holland worked on it, a silver-headed staff, and an annual stipend".

John Gabriel Stedman, British soldier, wrote a narrative of the expedition of 1772-77 against these rebels. His book today is notable chiefly because its engravings were by a young artist named William Blake. They showed the escaped slaves with curly ringlets and innocent, angelic faces that were later to grace a white heaven. In 1926 an American traveler, John W. Vandercook (a few years afterwards he became famous for a book named *Black Majesty*) published an account of these Negroes. He called it *Tom-Tom*, and in it he boasted that he and his wife had been the first writers to explore this strange civilization.

Under the striking and singularly appropriate title *Rebel Destiny*, Professor Herskovits (he is in the department of anthropology at North-Peterkin won the award in 1929, and western, and one of America's outstanding authorities in his chosen field) and his wife have now told in popular style the tale of their own journey up the river from Paramaribo. The scientific results of their researches are to be published later.

In Guiana these ethnologists found a condition parallelable in white civilization only by some such fantasy as Balderston's drama, *Berkeley Square*. Because the jungle fastnesses have been free from both inter-tribal strife and white interference, the culture there is that of Seventeenth Century Africa,—while the culture of Africa itself, thanks to the automobile and the sewing-machine, has changed in the last 300 years.

This feature of Bush Negro life, however, is only cursorily mentioned in the lively account. Professor and Mrs. Herskovits have written. Chiefly they are interested in presenting the native psychology as it unfolded itself to them on their two trips of 1928 and 1929. They found the people, once initial fears had been overcome, friendly and generous, easy of access and, though their three worst crimes are incest, murder and "informing on a Negro to a white man", somewhat voluble.

Like all primitive peoples, the Saramacca folk were ridden by superstition. "Kunu," a supernatural force controlled by ancestors and gods, and "obia," a magic charm, were among the commonest terms in conversation and the commonest influences in daily life.

The Herskovits' voyage took them up the river to the seat of the Granman, at the last Negro village on the jungle's edge. Here the leader received and entertained them; and here they learned much of Suriname life that previously had been hidden from them.

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(*Rebel Destiny* was published last Monday.)

BOOKS OF STRIBLING WILL BE DISCUSSED

T. S. Stribling, southern Pulitzer prize winner, will be the author discussed by Mrs. Morris at Rich's bookshop regular Tuesday morning talk this week. "The Unfinished Cathedral," concluding the trilogy depicting social history in the south since the Civil War, has just been published. "The Forge," first American novel to be chosen by the English Book Society, and "The Store" (Pulitzer prize 1932) are the other two volumes in the series.

T. S. Stribling is one of three southerners to be awarded the coveted Pulitzer prize in fiction. Julia Peterkin won the award in 1929, and Caroline Miller, of Baxley, Ga., in 1934.

Announcement will be made Tuesday morning in regard to a new series of talks Rich's bookshop has arranged with Mrs. Morris to present during June. Mrs. Morris' talks are open to the public without charge.

JUST PUBLISHED

The Communist, June, 1934. Vol. XII, No. 6; 96 pages. Twenty cents.

Contests—Editorial: "The Lessons of May Day"; Jack Stachel, "Some problems in Our Trade Union Work"; Martin Young, "What is to be expected of the Socialist Party Convention?"; Marina Lopez, "The Imperialist Scramble in the Colombian-Peruvian Conflict"; G. M., "Japan bares Its Imperialist Sword"; H. Puro, "The Farmers Are Getting Ready for Revolutionary Struggles"; James Allen, "The Black Belt; Area of Negro Majority"; Labor Research Assn., "Figures on the Amer.-Economic Crisis."

Four Americans As They Viewed Slavery In 1776

EARLY AMERICAN VIEWS ON NEGRO SLAVERY, by Matthew T. Mellon. Meador Publishing Company, Boston; 164 pages, \$2.

Mr. Mellon, who is a lecturer and student in the philosophy faculty of Albert-Ludwig University, Freiburg, Baden, Germany, has here collected the views of four great Americans—Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison.

The book is the result of considerable research and the author writes entertainingly. Unfortunately for the book as a whole he forgets, in places, the role of a reporter for that of a writer of editorials wherein are embodied occasional contradictory absurdities.

He begins reasonably enough by declaring that "the general impression,

held in the South as well as in the North, was that slavery was only a temporary institution." Was that going so far if all Southerners held the general impression that slavery was only a temporary institution? As an indictment of slavery, the book is a bit belated. As a collection within direct quotations of the views of early Americans on the slavery question, the work might prove valuable to the collector of curiosities. In any event, it will prove a surprising find in the average layman's library.—M.

"Our White Folks" Makes Him Smile



LANGSTON HUGHES,

whose newest book of fourteen short stories is published June 27 by Alfred Knopf, N.Y. Ofay employers here learn what their servants think of them, when they speak out, for Hughes's characters are no

Uncle Toms.

Darktown Strutter

Jonah's Gourd Vine, by Zora Neale Hurston. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott and Company. \$2.

WHEN Miss Hurston's hero ran away from trouble in Alabama and came to central Florida he heard for the first time of a "colored town."

"You mean an town in nothing but colored folks? Who bosses it den?" he asked.

"Dey bosses it deysself." 7-11-34

This town, Eatonville, was Zora Hurston's birthplace, and some of her happiest qualities are perhaps due to this circumstance. It may well account in part for her zest

and naturalness, now freed from the conventional sentimentality so frequent in writing about Negroes. She handles, incidentally, much the same material as Julia Peterkin; handles it with double authority as a Negro and a student of folklore. An insider, she shares with her hero the touch of "pagan poesy" that made him thrill his hearers when he preached. But she is an insider without the insider's usual neuroses.

This is the story of John Pearson, yellow Alabama field-hand, and famous preacher. He was a hero and a coward, a magnificent animal following his lusts and a church member praying to be cleansed of his sins. He loved his wife, Lucy, but left her for other women; returned to her, wept for her sorrows and left her again. After Lucy died he married Hattie, but the thought of Lucy so haunted him that he came to hate his second wife. "Whut am I doing married tuh you. . . . It's a hidden mystery to me—whut you doin' in Miss Lucy's shoes," he railed at her after seven years, and beat her severely to ease his conscience. But through it all Miss Hurston makes him a credible, human and almost an appealing figure. Toward the end, when his troubles are thick upon him, a figure not without tragic dignity.

With white people the book deals only incidentally. Its chief white character is Alf Pearson, the bluff and kindly planter who despised "backwoods whites who live by swindling the niggers." But Miss Hurston is aware also of another side of the Negroes' white folks, as she has indicated in the brief searing paragraphs about the divorce courts where "the smirking anticipation on the faces of the white spectators . . . made John feel as if he had fallen into a foul latrine. . . . 'Now listen close. You're going to hear something rich. These niggers! . . .'" And she is equally vigorous and forthright in her writing about colored people.

Candor like Miss Hurston's is still sufficiently rarehold among Negro writers. It is only one of the excellences of this book.

MARTHA GRUENING.

BEALE STREET, Where the Blues Began:

By George W. Lee. Robert O. Ballou, New York. 296 pp. \$2.50.

Reviewed by H. W. FAUCETT

The Blues that began on Beale Street were those with which W. C. Handy's name is forever linked.

Handy, native of Alabama, worked in the steel mills, taught school, hopped freights, joined a saloon quarter at the first Chicago Fair, and broke wind as stevedore on the Mississippi levee—did a bit of everything before he finally hit his stride with composition of the song that led E. H. Crump to political victory in Memphis and Handy himself to worldwide acclaim.

After the election the melancholy, weird strain which had been named Mr. Crump, in honor of the candidate, had its title changed to Memphis Blues. Its moderate success grew headier with the belated recognition that came to its successor, St. Louis Blues. Then Handy marched on to increasing fame, as one Blues song after another poured from his prolific pen. And St. Louis Blues, still deathless two decades after its publication, has earned more money than any other song ever written by a Negro.

Beale Street (Handy was to make it, too,

famous with his Beale Street Blues) is the center of the Negro section of Memphis. Since the depression it has lost in glamor and prestige; but it enjoys a rich and lively history stretching back to the days when Ulysses S. Grant, commanding the city he had captured, planned the siege of Vicksburg from the house he had taken as headquarters on Beale Street.

Mr. Lee has written a disturbingly uneven history of this thoroughfare which is dear to him.

Much of his narrative is quaint and flavorful incident centering about this Broadway of the Memphis black—tales of such illicit goings-on as would make our new American menace, the Legion of "Decency," call down the curse of Erzulphus on his head. Here one finds matter-of-fact accounts of the didoes of River George, Alice Mitchell, Will Self alias Dr. Scissors, Ten Dollar Jimmy Pearce, the Bible-reading Captain Lee Boyles, Lou Barnes, and many others. These are familiar names to Beale Street; and endless sagas cluster about them.

There was Fatty Grimes, shot to death at Hammitt Ashford's place on the street. Bleeding from five wounds, he rushed out of the doors; and a Negro undertaker who had seen the shooting ran after him until he fell. Someone cried, "Call Hayes' ambulance!"; but the undertaker seated himself on the corpse and announced, "I'm going to sit here till my wagon comes." He did.

There was the Reverend brother R. N. Countee, pastor of the Beale Street Baptist Church, who made so many enemies by his merciless campaign against secret societies that he had to leave his church and found a new one. Even then he was not safe. Foes lurked constantly in the neighborhood; he was afraid to appear on the streets.

His home was next door to the church, so "he built a chute that extended down from his bedroom window on the second floor of his house to the church window on the side next to his residence. When he went to church at night to hold services, he would slide down that chute into the church. He also had a contraption arranged whereby he could pull himself back up the chute when the service ended."

If all Mr. Lee's account of Beale Street were of a piece with these engaging anecdotes, his history would be priceless. Unfortunately he cannot maintain this pace. Much of the book is almost a catalog of Negro business and professional men and women of Memphis, some of whom may deserve this recognition, but most of whom do not.

Mr. Lee seems to have had two purposes,—to write a spirited account of the district which, while giving birth to the Blues, has also given Memphis permanent leadership in American homicide tables; and to pen a Chamber of Commerce brochure for the blacks who are his friends. In so far as he has followed his first aim, he has made a genuine contribution to the history of American manners; but the latter sire has led him into high-school-annual stuff. It is pleasant for home consumption, and mighty dreary reading for non-Memphians.

The book throughout is marred by poor copy-reading and worse proofreading. Such mistakes as "a lullaby from 'Bermimie,'" "used by Clark McCullough in his 'Ramblers on Broadway,'"—and "Frisk University" are inexcusable. (Beale Street will be published tomorrow.)

Bibliography-1934

A SHORT HISTORY OF GEORGIA, by Merton Coulter, University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, N. C. 457 pp. 79 illustrations. Price \$3.50.

Reviewed by ORVILLE A. PARK

Editor's Note: Merton Coulter, author of this book, will deliver an address on Ireland before the Forum at the Washington Memorial library here next Thursday night at 8:15.

Few if any of the states of the Union have more interesting, a more romantic, a more worthwhile history than Georgia. None perhaps has been more neglected in preserving and recording its history. So it is that almost any sixth-grade child knows a lot about the history of New England, but almost nothing about that of his own state.

There are very good histories of different periods and different phases of Georgia history; but there was no complete narrative from the days of the Spanish exploration and settlement to the bi-centennial of the planting of Oglethorpe's little colony on Yamacraw bluff until Dr. Coulter gave us his Short History. One can wish that it had been expanded into a complete account.

Dr. Coulter is not unknown in the field of Georgia history. Not only has he held the chair of History at the State University for several years, but he has also edited the Georgia Historical Quarterly to which he has contributed a number of excellent articles. He is best known in Georgia, however, by his charming book, College Life in the Old South, an historical narrative of Franklin college, which most of us think of as the University of Georgia. His study and writing has not been confined to Georgia. He has written a History of Kentucky and of the Cincinnati Southern railroad, and has been a contributor to several of the leading historical magazines.

With source material so scattered and fragmentary, with so few real biographies of Georgians, with so little of what is called Georgia history accurate and reliable, it is not to be wondered that some errors have crept into Dr. Coulter's work and that his perspective and sense of proportion may not always seem true. Some of these errors would hardly have been made by a native Georgian, were he as good an historian as is Dr. Coulter. On the other hand the fact that he is a Kentuckian, an adopted son of Georgia, has given him a detached point of view, a candor and fairness valuable in a writer of history that could hardly have been expected in a Georgian to the manor born. This, in my opinion, far outweighs the small inaccuracies and minor errors which may be pointed out, and there are no great number even of these.

Dr. Coulter has approached his work as a trained historian whose sole aim is to find and record the facts. Some of these facts and the inferences which must be drawn from them are not always pleasant to the professional Georgian who still thinks that Georgia is the Empire State of the South, but it is wholesome that we should face the facts especially when they

are told by a sympathetic though candid narrator in an epigram or catchy phrase. Merton Coulter. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, N. C. 457 pp. 79 illustrations. Price \$3.50. Dr. Coulter is no "muck-raker". It is not his purpose or desire to resurrect unpleasant or sordid incidents even though true, unless necessary to a proper understanding of the story which he unfolds. He does not omit or slur over for his good, the worthwhile achievements of Georgians, the many facts which made the state the leader of the Old South and for a time of the New. These are all set forth and due credit is given.

Dr. Coulter has written a story, not a chronology of Georgia. The reader is not bothered with a great many dates, and events are not always recorded in their exact chronological order. The book does not catalogue the several state administrations. We are rather surprised to find no mention of the name of a single governor since N. E. Harris; and many of his predecessors are not referred to at all or the reference is only incidental. After all, why should they be? Elected on purely personal or factional grounds, and contributing little or nothing of permanent value to the state, what was there to say about them except that in a certain year they were elected over such and such opponents and served one or perhaps two terms during which nothing of importance transpired.

Several distinguished Georgians, whose treatment seems inadequate, were national rather than local figures. Their service was to the country as a whole rather than to Georgia in particular. A. O. Bacon, as chairman of the committee on Foreign Affairs of the Senate, Charles F. Crisp as speaker of the House of Representatives, Hoke Smith as Secretary of the Interior, Joseph R. Lamar as justice of the Supreme court, belong to the United States, and their distinguished services, of which we Georgians are proud, are not in a proper sense a part of the history of Georgia.

The numerous wars in which the United States was involved and which occupy so much space in the history of the country, are touched but lightly and only as they may have affected Georgia individually rather than as a part of the Union. The only battles referred to are those which were fought on Georgia soil.

Dr. Coulter is at his best when he writes of the economic and the social and intellectual development of the state, the chapters entitled The Empire State of the South, The Soul of the People, Financial and Economic Progress, and Social Advancement being particularly good.

"The early history of Georgia was unique, the later history falls into patterns that dominate the South." Dr. Coulter has naturally and wisely developed the history of the early period much more fully than the later which is hurriedly sketched in outline, omitting many interesting though largely unimportant details. Though brief, the book gives a comprehensive view of the history of the state from the time when it was first visited by Europeans to the present and will rank as the best history of Georgia that has yet been written.

Dr. Coulter's style is easy, graceful and pleasing. There are frequent flashes of humor and some sarcasm. Occasionally important events and persons are spoken of rather too flippantly, it seems to me. Sometimes historic accuracy appears to have been sacrificed for the sake of

In the Realm of Books

DEEP RIVER by Clement Wood, copyright 1934, William Godwin, Inc., Van Nostrand Press \$2.50

By MORRIS R. JONES

This is a daring novel which courageously reveals the candid facts of interracial marriage. The fact that it concerns a general question, however, is not responsible for it being characterized as daring. Mr. Wood's exposure of the sexual intimacies of his characters may make even the staunchest disciple of William Faulkner arch his eyebrows.

The story concerns Eldon Pickett, nationally renowned Negro concert baritone, who fairly sweeps Frances Sturtevant, white New England society debutante, off of her feet by his divine-like rendition of Negro folk song—especially the powerful "Deep River". So enthralled and spiritually moved is "Fran" over his recital that she accepts an invitation to be the "lone" guest at a "private concert" in his Harlem apartment. A torrid romance ensues which ultimately climaxes at the City Hall. Not unlike most parties who ignore this almost sacred American conventionality, Eldon and Fran began to reap the penalty of their venture—such reversals as cancellations of concert contracts; removal from social register; vilification by the press in general, etc. Nevertheless, they bravely fought on, unheated by the intrepid stand of a few remaining black and white friends. Everything went along smoothly until our hero became somewhat bored with the "tied-up peculiarities" of married life. Playboyishly, Eldon went on his spree which terminated with an affair with Claudette Iselin, a hometown chum of Fran and a boastful admirer of Eldon. After many quarrels and reconciliations, they agreed, not without great pain, that interracial marriage of this variety

was impossible in the U. S. that is, so far as success was concerned. At this point there comes, unexpectedly, but very appropriately, a message from the President of Haiti to Eldon, inviting him to accept a very attractive position there. Mr. and Mrs. Pickett agreed to make their future home in the little Dominican Republic. Thus the "never the twain shall meet" bugaboo takes one on the chin.

Failure to make short character analysis of the hero and heroine in THIS narrative would make this review incomplete, especially of the former. Of Eldon Pickett's nature one could call it dualistic, in that there was ever-present that conflict of primitiveness and culture. His barbaric nature is marked by his unnatural sensuousness. Profuse use of de-famatory expression, and his spasmodic hallucinations of being ruler of a Congo tribe. On the other hand we see in Pickett a brilliant, refined artist who is endowed with a deity-like power to completely captivate his audiences.

Concerning the heroine, Frances Sturtevant, she was extraordinarily virtuous—perhaps a little too idealic for such a tumultuous background. Nevertheless, we will concede that she was, perhaps, a little unnecessarily sensitive about whom she socially contacted.

Another interesting point, which will attract many readers, is Mr. Wood's unique style—specifically, the omission of unnecessary words in describing the mood of characters. Clement Wood is not new to the literary field. He is the author of the novel "Nigger", which first appeared, about eleven years ago.

BOOK REVIEW

"Jonah's Gourd Vine" by Zora Hurston, Publishers—J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, Pa.—Price, \$2.00

By Mary White Ovington, Treasurer

"Don't worry 'bout me," Zora Hurston's little heroine says when she is dying. "I done been in sorrow's kitchen an' I done licked out all depts."

With such striking sentences as these, so close to a people's life Zora Hurston startles us in her new book. In plot and character it is not unusual. The attractive, unfaithful husband, the hard-working wife, sudden success for the man and then disaster, these are familiar. But the material is dressed in magnificent phraseology. Toward the last of the book we have a sermon, preached by the hero, that rolls through the Bible to end with Damnation train blowing for the switch.

John Pearson, the hero, after a few months schooling, feels the call to preach, and grows in popularity like Jonah's Gourd Vine. Later he is lopped off because of his too easy ways with women. After his disgrace, when his second wife has divorced him, he explains the situation this way: "Yuh see dey's ready fuh a preacher tuh be a man uhmongst men, but dey ain't ready yet fuh 'im tuh be a nan uhmongst women." And his best friend says comfortingly: Our people is jes' lak a passle uh crabs n uh basket. De minute dey sees ne climbin' up too high, de rest of 'em reach up an' grab 'em an' pull 'em back. Dey ain't gonna let nobody git nowhere if dey kin 're'p it.' Peace and plenty came to John toward the last, but today a happy ending would be sacrilege just as an unhappy one would have been in the past, and he has to be run over by a train while he is riding in his third wife's new Cadillac. It gives us a chance to read of a grand funeral.

The white people take their places as naturally as the colored. Massa Pearson, or Mister Pearson, according as you are really emancipated or not, says to John after he has declared that he didn't know all these unlucky things were going to happen: "Of course you did not know. God has given to all men the gift of blindness. That is he has cursed few with vi-

sion. Ever hear tell of a happy prophet? This old world wouldn't roll on the way He started it if men could see."

But John, the preacher, when he goes away tells himself that the white man doesn't know everything about the Negro. "Dey's some strings on our harp fuh us to play on an' sing all tuh ourselves."

Fannie Hurst says of this book: "Here is Negro folk lore interpreted at its authentic best in fiction form of high order." This seems to me perfectly to express the Book. Nora Hurston is still very young. While a college graduate she has yet lived among all sorts of people and has been able to throw herself into the life of the rough Negro worker as no other writer has done of whom I know. She has magnificent material. But as yet, she is a looker-on. When she lives her book, lives it intensely, she should produce something for the world, something to place by the Scandinavian as literature of the peasantry. *There is a wealth of gorgeous material thrown in our laps in Jonah's Gourd Vine.*

New Southern Textbook On Education Rates Work Of Booker T. Washington

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Feb. 22.—

C. Johnson Dunn, professor of social studies at State Teachers College, announces receipt from the Southern branch of Houghton Mifflin Company, Atlanta, Ga., a copy of the revised and enlarged edition of a textbook being used in the course in education, "Public Education in the United States," by Ellwood P. Cubberley, dean emeritus, school of education, Leland Stanford Junior University, which rates the work of Booker T. Washington as being important in the educational revival in the South, and carries Dr. Washington's picture.

The volume, just off the press this year, includes several new chapters not in the old work which is being studied by juniors in the State College, among which is chapter 20, "The Educational Revival in the South," page 663. On page 667 is a photograph of Dr. Washington alongside that of Dr. Samuel Chapman Armstrong, and the caption notes both as "The founders of industrial training for the colored race," and Dr. Washington as the "Founder of Tuskegee," and Mr. Armstrong as "Founder of Hampton." Dr. Washington's work is discussed under the topical head, "New Influences." The word "Negro" is capitalized throughout the book.

TODAY'S BOOK

PORTRAIT OF AMERICA, by Diego Rivera. With an explanatory text by Bertram D. Wolfe. Covici-Friede, New York. 232 pp. \$3.50.

Reviewed by A. B. BERND

The finespun theories which produced Du-champs and Miro are not so important to Diego Rivera as the robust tenets that have culminated in Stalin and William Z. Foster. In the medium which gives him expression, the Mexican is a great artist, yet the material which this medium uses is of vaster importance to him than the medium itself. Fired by a sense of social justice, Rivera, master painter, is the world's master propagandist. He has offered a double hostage to posterity.

As Thomas Craven has intimated, much of his man's power comes from his national background. Having no tradition of handicraft and only scant corpus of esthetic behind him, his method springs directly from popular cartooning, from the story-picture. It is ideally adapted to the use he has made of it. Its boldness fits it to the large structural surfaces of the mural:

its passion, its exaggeration, its negligence of classic rule, give the modern tempo, the time-iness lacking in, say, the delicacies of Puvisgentry and traders on the one hand, and Indians, le Chavannes or the cold allegories of Sargent. Revolution, to which the democratic ideas of "If my work has a purpose," Rivera writes in his introduction to this book, "it may be summed up as being to make the greatest contribution of which I am capable to the estheticumph of the American Constitution. Expansion of the working class, in the form of the birth of imperialism. The Civil War (John clarifying expression of the things that class must understand in its struggle for a leveled society."

Striving toward this goal he came from Mexico to the United States, where his theories could best be tested. Here he found splendid expanses of white wall awaiting him. Here was "marvelous plastic material which years and years of work could not exhaust." And most important of all, here was a touchstone for his effectiveness,—an industrial society in which the ruling classes threatened boycott or destruction of his work, while the proletariat "formed a united front to defend my murals, whatever fashion it might be necessary." Only the latter group mattered to Rivera: They represented the "free commonwealth of all society" into the hands of which all power and all wealth would eventually pass.

During the three years of his residence here, Rivera has done murals in the San Francisco School of Fine Arts, the luncheon club of the Stock exchange in the same city, the Detroit Museum, Rockefeller Center, and the New Workers' School in New York. Portrait of America contains sixty plates showing the chief of these, with enlargements of many important details. Even the famous destroyed paintings in Radio City, in spite of proprietary prohibition of photographs, are here reproduced.

The main body of the book is concerned with the twenty-one panels executed (with Mr. Rockefeller's money) for the New Workers' School. This is the series named by its creator "Portrait of America." It traces the history of a nation Senor Rivera might call the land of the far from-free and the home of the not-so-brave.

Accompanying the pictures is a concise explanatory text by Bertram Wolfe, director of the school, with whose collaboration the series was planned and executed. Mr. Wolfe himself appears in the portrait-group of the nineteenth panel, "Proletarian Unity," along with his fellow-workers, Lenin and Trotsky, Ruthenberg, Engels and the rest.

What Rivera has painted and Wolfe has interpreted is the social history of the United States from the Marxian viewpoint. The glorification of the machine so striking in the Detroit and RCA murals, has been forgotten. Instead, in these frescoes which the artist calls "the best that I have ever painted, the best constructed, the most correct in historical dialectic, the richest in materialistic synthesis, and, moreover, informed with the greatest enthusiasm and love that I am capable of feeling," emphasis is laid completely on the class struggle.

Bibliography-1934

Two New Vital Pamphlets on Negro Problem

IMPERIALISM DESTROYS THE PEOPLE OF AFRICA—by James W. Ford. Price 1 cent.

THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE EMANCIPATION OF THE NEGRO PEOPLE, by Earl Browder. Price 1 cent.

Negro Problems Pamphlet issued by the Harlem Section of the Communist Party.

Reviewed by FORGE

WITH Bolshevik thoroughness Comrade Ford rips the hypocritical mask from the agents of imperialism. In his exposure of the real conditions of the African masses, particularly the Negro children, in the very domain of imperialism at the "Save the Children of Africa Conference," at Geneva, Switzerland Ford shows these oppressors and lynchers of the Negro people in their role, and the way out for the oppressed nations. With statistics compiled by the imperialist governments themselves and reports from native Africans, Ford paints the panorama of horror and cruelty of colonial exploitation. This indictment of imperialism now comes to us in the form of a pamphlet. It is part of a series of penny brochures just published by the Harlem Section of our Party. In its 16 small pages a wealth of material on this problem of world significance is presented. It is of great value to all revolutionary workers. But is indispensable to the Communists in Harlem. Here we get a clear-cut view of the world-wide fight against racial oppression of the Negro people and its connection with the struggle for national liberation of the Negro masses in the United States.

Simultaneously with the publication of "Imperialism Destroys the People of Africa," by Ford is issued another penny pamphlet in this series. "The Communist Party and the Emancipation of the Negro People," by Earl Browder, is that part of the report of the Eight Party Convention in which Comrade Browder deals with the Communist stand on the Negro problem. Although it was no doubt read by most readers of the Daily Worker in the complete report of the Convention, in the form of this pamphlet it make a forceful presentation of the Communist position on

this question.

Both these pamphlets should gain widespread circulation among the Negro masses of Harlem as well as all Party members. They will do a great deal in raising the understanding of our main problem among our members and win many Negro and white workers to our correct position on Negro liberation.

NEGRO PROGRESS SHOWN IN RECORDS

YEAR BOOK PUBLISHED

State Industrial College Students' Work

Negro life in Savannah in all its phases, historical, educational, religious and social, and in its business, its health, its music, its politics and its social problems, is ably reviewed in the first Year Book of Colored Savannah.

This book was prepared by students of the Georgia State Industrial College, directed and edited by Kernit O. Smalls. It is honored by a foreword by Thomas Gamble, Mayor of Savannah, expressing interest and pride in the picture of interracial relation presented and in the progress of the Negro race in Savannah, which it depicts.

The chapter on negro history in Savannah is a comprehensive account of the progress of the race here from the days of the settlement of Georgia to the present time. The facts assembled are of extraordinary interest and will probably be very revealing to those who have never approached the history of Georgia from this angle. As the writer says, the negro has been in Savannah from the very beginning, he has taken part in all that affected Savannah and that went toward building the city, and has played a useful and significant part in its growth. It was negro slaves from South Carolina who were sent here to assist Oglethorpe in preparing the land for settlement. The introduction of slavery into the Georgia colony is noted. The part negroes played in the Revolutionary War, 800 being with the French fleet under d'Estaing, was in portent and these negroes from the West Indies, trained as soldiers, it is stated, were inclined to look down on the negro laborers. One of the most interesting parts of the historical section is that which describes negro artisans and their work during slavery days in Savannah. About this time, it is said, there were 200 free negroes in Savannah, and many of their descendants are living here today. Numerous facts that are little known are included in this account, with the sources indicated. Among other things it is stated that slaves at the Hermitage were operators of the first

non-steam railroad in America, and negroes later played an important part in building the Central of Georgia Railroad. Probably few people know that part of Colonial Cemetery was the first burying ground for negroes in Savannah. The part Savannah negroes took in the Civil War is also full of interest, and there is much more that makes this section of the Year Book valuable.

Professor R. W. Gadsden introduces the section on education. He points out that the education of negroes in Savannah began as far back as 1750 and has been continuous, and that as far back as 1874 the then Board of Education of Chatham county desired to establish schools for the colored race, before such schools were legalized. Professor B. F. Hubert has written the historical sketch of the Georgia State Industrial College.

The roster of churches is a long one and the brief sketches of the history of each church reinforces the section on education. He points out that the religious life of the colored race in Savannah is grounded and liberally developed. Part negro physicians have been looking after the health of the people is surprising when seen in this record and shows in training and helpful service. Internal organizations are active in section on business is an interesting one, and the extraordinary number and variety of the business advertisements which the Year Book carries speak for themselves. How social problems are being met is well analyzed. The history of club life among the colored women of Savannah shows a remarkable record of activity and service and a wide range of interests with high ideals.

Fine achievements are listed too numerous to give here but worth reading of. They show the colored women as leaders in social betterment, higher moral and civic standards, and the improvement of community conditions for children and adults. There is also a brief but interesting section on politics: The colored people of Savannah and their white friends have reason to feel pride in this honest and modest record of progress and friendly co-operation for better citizenship.

The chapter on negro history in Savannah is a comprehensive account of the progress of the race here from the days of the settlement of Georgia to the present time. The facts assembled are of extraordinary interest and will probably be very revealing to those who have never approached the history of Georgia from this angle. As the writer says, the negro has been in Savannah from the very beginning, he has taken part in all that affected Savannah and that went toward building the city, and has played a useful and significant part in its growth. It was negro slaves from South Carolina who were sent here to assist Oglethorpe in preparing the land for settlement. The introduction of slavery into the Georgia colony is noted. The part negroes played in the Revolutionary War, 800 being with the French fleet under d'Estaing, was in portent and these negroes from the West Indies, trained as soldiers, it is stated, were inclined to look down on the negro laborers. One of the most interesting parts of the historical section is that which describes negro artisans and their work during slavery days in Savannah. About this time, it is said, there were 200 free negroes in Savannah, and many of their descendants are living here today. Numerous facts that are little known are included in this account, with the sources indicated. Among other things it is stated that slaves at the Hermitage were operators of the first

Wonderful ETHIOPIANS

ORIGIN OF CIVILIZATION FROM THE BLACK RACE

A BOOK YOU SHOULD HAVE

By Drusilla Dunjee-Houston

PRESS COMMENTS

PITTSBURGH COURIER—"We know of no book published in the past 25 years which offers such irrefutable inspiration to the black peoples of the earth."

NEW YORK AMSTERDAM NEWS—"The book is intensely interesting. It grips you from the first. The cuts go far to convince. It should be in every home, college and high school in the land."

ASSOCIATED NEGRO PRESS—"In no other book is there so much of the gold of Negro history. Your material is wonderful. We feel prouder of our heritage as Negroes as we read the things you have discovered."

BOSTON, Thomas L. A. Diney, President Poet's League of America—"I have just returned from South America. I am amazed, thrilled. I did not know such past glories were the Negro's. I wish this book were in every home."

MINNESOTA, Cornelius Edwin Walker, white lecturer, author, psychologist—"You prove your contention from the first, that civilization came from the black race. Whoever in either race disputes your assertion has some task indeed."

NEW YORK, Arthur Schombert, Spingarn Medallist for Historical Service—"You ought to listen to the marvelous way the story is unfurled by the pen of this writer, of our ancestors who wrought mightily for mankind."

Buy this book, read it twice; it will do you a world of good."

DENVER, Father Rahming, Catholic Priest—"This book is a contribution equal to that of W. E. B. DuBois or James Weldon Johnson."

SANTO DOMINGO MESSENGER—"Within the lids of this matchless volume is a chain of irrefutable facts, welded by a master mind, facts hitherto unnoticed and untouched. America should be proud of you."

NEW YORK MESSENGER—"There seems to be a widespread conspiracy in literature to hide this truth. These facts as gathered by this remarkable writer, will prove a flowing fountain for aspiring youth."

SOUTHERN CRITIC, Robert T. Kerlin—"The writing of Drusilla Dunjee-Houston should be syndicated."

DEAN OF NEGRO SCHOLARS, William Pickens—"The patience with which she has dug into history is genius. Her writings for the Associated Negro Press, take the rank of the work of Ida Tarbel."

This book will stir your children to higher ambitions.

It will give the teacher new power to enthuse.

It will give the public speaker a new and thrilling message.

It will inspire the discouraged to greater achievement.

FACTS DRAWN ONLY FROM AUTHENTIC SOURCES

LINEN \$2.00

LEATHER \$3.75

Address
ETHIOPIAN PRESS

North Stiles Avenue

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

White Folks Are Silly

The Ways of White Folks, by Langston Hughes. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. \$2.50.

OCTAVUS ROY COHEN finds colored people very funny, and Julia Peterkin finds them very quaint. Langston Hughes finds white people either sordid and cruel, or silly and sentimental. This indictment is perhaps largely, if not wholly, true. Nevertheless this collection of short stories suffers a little, as a whole, from being based on such a formula. Any formula is too cheap and easy for an artist of Hughes' caliber. Osceola Jones, the Negro pianist, he tells us for instance, did not "stare mystically over the top of a grand piano like white folks and imagine that Beethoven had nothing to do with life," and when she played for her white patroness the latter looked "very cold and white" and "her grand piano seemed like the biggest and heaviest in the world." I doubt that white people—who have, of course, plenty to answer for—do any more mystical staring over the tops of pianos and imagining of silly things about Beethoven than warm, dark-skinned ones, or that their grand pianos are any bigger and heavier.

The best of these stories, however, are very good indeed. "Cora Unashamed," with its direct and shattering impact, its warmth and bitterness, is magnificent. "Home" tells with sharp eloquence of the return of a young Negro violinist from triumphs abroad to a little Missouri town, where he is lynched. "Christmas Eve" is a straightforward and touching sketch of a Negro maid and her small son, reminiscent of the author's "Not Without Laughter," though written with more bitterness. In "Little Dog" Langston Hughes has given old stuff about a frustrated old maid and her dog a new and painful reality, and in "Slave on the Block" he has written a rollicking and very funny, though merciless, satire on a certain type of white Negro-ophile. It is hard to understand why he should have included in this otherwise distinguished collection so heavy-handed and wearisome a satire as "Rejuvenation Through Joy," or so slick and brittle a piece as "A Good Job Gone."

MARTHA GRUENING.

THE BOTTOM RAIL. By Laurence C. Jones. The Fleming H. Revell Company.

A book dealing with the life of the Negro in the lowlands of Mississippi and interracial relations in the South.

BLACK RECONSTRUCTION: IN AMERICA, 1860-1880. By W. E. B. DuBois. Harcourt, Brace & Co.

A re-examination of American history since the Civil War from the point of view of the Negro.

FOR THE GLORY OF HAITI. By Captain John H. Craig. Minton, Balch & Co.

An intimately personal history of Haiti and the occupation.

TRANSIENT LADY, by Octavus Roy Cohen. D. Appleton-Century Company, New York, \$2.. 310 pp.

Reviewed by ELOISE H. ALEXANDER
Around the opening of a skating-rink in a small Southern town, Octavus Roy Cohen weaves an intricate and exciting story. Nick Kiley, a carnival man, and his two assistants, Chris Blake and Dale Cameron arrive in Karnak with the determination to make skating the favorite sport of the town. They rent an old warehouse and convert it into a skating rink. From the very first, the venture is a success.

An unexpected catastrophe occurs one night when Nick finds it necessary to ask Fred Baxter and his friends to leave the rink because of their outrageous behavior. Later in the evening, Baxter goes to see Kiley to threaten him; and in self-defense, Kiley shoots him. Realizing that he has killed the brother of a notorious, but powerful politician and that his plea of self-defense will not save him, Kiley leaves Karnak.

Events happen rapidly after Kiley's departure. Hamp Baxter, an unscrupulous State Senator, is crushed over his brother's death and vows that someone will hang for the crime. An innocent man, Cris Blake, is arrested. Cameron, the other member of the skating team, and a very pretty girl persuade Carey Marshall, the leading young lawyer of Karnak to defend the boy.

The affair becomes more serious than anyone had expected. Two rival factions in the country, the Crawfords and the Baxters, take sides in the case; their ancient feud is revived. The sleepy, peaceful little town becomes the scene of strife, hatred and murder.

The climax is reached when Carey Marshall frees Blake after a dramatic court trial. The love affair between Carey and Cameron, also reaches a satisfactory conclusion.

In Transient Lady, the author has attempted to give a fair and unbiased picture of the South. He has written of the fine traditions, the aristocratic old families, the hospitality and culture of the South, but he has also depicted the narrowness and self-complacency of small town life, the ignorance and bigotry of a large part of the people and the existence of certain deplorable customs.

the new book by the author of
"The March of Democracy"

America's Tragedy

by James Truslow Adams

The history of sectionalism in America from its beginning in colonial days to its culmination in the greatest tragedy the nation has ever known — the Civil War, and through the bitter years of "Reconstruction." Mr. Adams, with the vividness and clarity that distinguishes all his work, traces the growth of the "black thread of destiny" in American history that grew until it almost throttled the nation.

\$3.00

at all bookstores
TODAY'S BOOK

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

TODAY'S BOOK

A PLANTATION CHRISTMAS, by Julia Peterkin. Decorations by David Hendrickson. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. 26 pp. 75 Cents.

Reviewed by SIDNEY L. M'GEE

Christmas will soon be in the air. Our merchants will see to that. Santa Claus, transformed from an ancient myth into a modern super-salesman, will be parading our streets in full regalia. He will be weeks ahead of his traditional time, but that will be all the better. Sales resistance is hard to break down in time of depression, even when the Federal Government is providing most of the spending money.

Julia Peterkin is troubled by what is happening to Christmas in this age when "children of enlightened parents no longer believe in Santa Claus." A Plantation Christmas is a little essay designed to bring cheer to those who remain faithful to the "old-fashioned ways which were a part of our childhood and of the childhood of those who were here before us."

Miss Peterkin is thankful for the fate which placed her in a home far removed from the beaten track of progress. Plantation life has its disadvantages, but nowhere, she writes, "is life more generous in compensating for its lacks than on this old plantation."

Christmas is the greatest of the gala days on the plantation. Preparations begin as soon as Thanksgiving is over. The house is cleaned, food is prepared, wood is cut for backlogs and kindling, hunters are busy, important journeys are made to town, mysterious packages appear and disappear, holly wreaths are made, mistletoe boughs are hung, mystery and joy are in the air.

On Christmas Eve comes watchnight meeting in the Quarters, with hymns and prayers in old Christian fashion until midnight, then rejoicing and singing in exultant voices until the Christmas sun rises in the east. Then the servants'

eries of "Christmas Gift!" in the early morning, and spirituals in the yard. Gifts and glad tidings are exchanged, and merrymaking continues throughout Christmas Week until New Year's Day ends the holiday season. The hickory backlog has burned out and "we rejoice that we are spared to pause and wonder over that strange miracle we call life."

This inexpensive little volume, which is appropriately decorated by David Hendrickson, would make an ideal Christmas gift for those who appreciate good writing and who still believe, or want to believe, in Santa Claus.

DeKalb, Ga., DeKalb News Era
November 15, 1934

Essay Published By
Dr. Arthur F. Raper

Dr. Arthur F. Raper, acting professor of sociology at Agnes Scott college, has recently published a pamphlet on negro life in the south entitled "A Study of a Rural Negro Community," in which he takes up population elements, the man-land relations, planes of living, the New Deal, religious organizations, crime and criminals, and schools and schoolhouses.

Dr. Raper was acting in his capacity as research and field secretary for the Commission on Interracial Cooperation when he wrote the essay.

NEGRO AMERICANS, WHAT NOW? By James Weldon Johnson. Viking Press, New York, 103 pp. \$1.25.

Reviewed by JESSE WORD

Negro Americans, What Now? is a challenge to every Negro, regardless of his social or financial status. James Weldon Johnson is the widely known and capable author of this comprehensive treatise that deals almost exclusively with the Negro and the many trying and intricate problems that lie before him.

Mr. Johnson does not stop at merely pointing out numerous predicaments that face the American Negro, but he gives possible ways and means that will tend to solve such foremost bugaboos as race discrimination and segregation.

Mr. Johnson does not attempt to stir up an antagonistic spirit against the white neighbor, but brings home to the Negro his weak, as well as his strong points.

The author's message carries with it a thought provoking theme. One of the highlights in his skilfully written book is: Stop whining segregation at every turn and build a reputation for efficiency.

Mr. Johnson does not bring to his readers fantastic dreams and Utopias that can be realized by magic. His common-sense message is cool and practical; if followed, it will in the end be a highly workable plan for the Negro American's salvation.

No thoughtful person can read this book without feeling the depth of its purpose. Its author writes, not as a novice in his field, but from bitter experience and profound knowledge.

(Jesse Word, who writes this review of Mr. Johnson's book, is a case worker with the Bibb County Relief organization. He belongs to the race to which Mr. Johnson's book is addressed.)

Bibliography - 1934

'HIGH YALLER' STORY BY HUGHES EVOKES DEBATE

White Readers of Esquire Magazine Differ on Their Approval of Inter-racial Love as Subject for Article

CHICAGO, Jan. 25. — Adding to them as Spanish grants, and the new evidence to the present test-plantation, comprising over 5,000 money for its novelty and smart-acres of rich land, provided work-ness, the publishers of the maga-for several hundred slaves. Because zine, "Esquire," have created the island was four days' travel nationwide debate by submitting from New Orleans in the early to picked white readers in many days, it had to become a self-suf-states a story written by Langs-ficient settlement, with its own ton Hughes. The publishers ask saw-mill, brick-kiln, machine shop, the readers: "Shall we print this sugar factory and mills of various story?"

The principal characters in the Hughes' story are a rich white man, a beautiful colored girl, and her dark, but handsome, boy friend.

The votes keep pouring in, with the issue not at all settled. But whether Hughes' story printed or not, it has been commented that Hughes should be compensated for being the author of a story which could be used to promote such an effective advertising campaign for the magazine as the vote contest.

St. Louisan On Staff
"Esquire" boasts the services of the world's smartest authors and artists.

One of its regular contributors is E. Simms Campbell, the former St. Louis schoolboy artist, whose work now graces the pages of Life, College Humor, and the Hearst syndicate.

Haunting Spirituals of Avery Island

BEFO' DE WAR SPIRITUALS.
Words and Melodies Collected by E. A. McIlhenny. Arrangements by Henri Wehrmann. 255 pp. Boston: Christopher Publishing House. \$3.

HERE are 120 spirituals as sung by the Negroes on a great sugar plantation at Avery Island, La., before the Civil War and afterward. Avery Island has belonged to the McIlhenny family

value, but the music is beautiful.

It is not often that a study can be made of the folksong of an isolated community as it has existed for generations, and so this book is valuable from the standpoint of sociology as well as of music. It would be well if such regional studies were made wherever possible, to preserve the fast-vanishing old folksongs.

DOROTHY SCARBOROUGH.

Dr. Hawk Selects Formidable Title For His New Book



DR. E. Q. HAWK

'Economic History Of South' Attracts Attention Of Noted Authorities

BY DOLLY DALRYMPLE

Dr. E. Q. Hawk, professor of economics, Birmingham-Southern College, and one of a group of Birmingham's "best minds" chosen to solve the problems of the city's financial situation, selected a formidable title for his book, "Economic History of the South," which has recently come from the press of Prentice-Hall, Inc., New York.

I use the word formidable, ad-riod up to "The Panic of 1873," and wisely, for the title carries little ro-then comes "Economic Progress in mance with it and less sentiment, the South After 1880," which leads yet when one speaks of anything up to the "Present Economic Prob- concerning the South, whether it belems of "the South."

There is a "Foreword" to Dr. Hawk's and fiscal systems of the Southern Tipton, B. Slavery, Ph.D., professor of economics, University of Virginia, at least temporary relief from some we find in part, this interesting of the problems which confront us.

statement: "Since the beginning of the pres-to utilize its abundant natural cent century it has become increas-sources to the best possible advan- ingly necessary to examine the basic tage, for its economic and social de- economic factors of our civilization, velopment, fundamental changes. At a first glance, this statement may must be inaugurated in the banking seem paradoxical, inasmuch as there and fiscal system of the Southern has been, during this period, a sig-states; barriers now checking the nificant growth in wealth and in-free flow of foreign trade must be re- come and the general standard of moved, and an adequate educational living. . . . The fact is, however, system must be maintained for the that the economic system of today training of the rising generation."

is more intricate and sensitive than. An enlightening book is "Econom- any that has yet been evolved. . . ic History of the South," to be Despite prevailing assertions it seems studied as well as read for informa- clear that the stage has by no means tion and entertainment; a book which been reached when mere changes in in years to come will adorn library governmental organization or a re-shelves, both public and private, as distribution of income will result in well as being used as a "text-book" a satisfactory level of economic wel- in colleges and universities.

fare. We are still far from a goal To his wife, Dr. Hawk gracefully of an ideal standard of living. . . . pays tribute in his "Acknowledg- Dr. Hawk has written the first gen- ments" for the part she played in eral treatise covering the entire pe- his writing of the book, when he riod of the economic evaluation of says:

the South. Existing volumes on American economic history have given correlative treatment of the Southern states. . . . Dr. Hawk's objective has been to prepare for the Southern region, a treatise sim- ilar to the standard works which have been written for the United States as a whole."

Dr. Hawk's Story

How well Dr. Hawk has succeeded those who have studied (not merely read) his book carefully, will realize; for with his keen analytical mind, distinguished, not only for deep learning, but a thorough and inti- mate knowledge of the affairs of the world, politics, governments, and the social welfare of peoples, reli- gious as well as secular interest of business, he has diligently applied his talents to his subject with such practical and intelligent conclusions, that his book "Economic History of the South" will take its place among the rare and valued books of the ages.

Beginning with the first chapter entitled "The South," Dr. Hawk asks the question, "What Is the South?" and proceeds to define the geograph- ical situation of that section of the United States, which has held more romance and adventure and beauty and sentiment than any other, on through "The Southern Colonies," "Agriculture in the Colonial South," "Industry in the Colonial South" and lege, and one of a group of Birmingham's "best minds" chosen to solve the problems of the city's financial situation, selected a formidable title for his book, "Economic History of the South," which has recently come from the press of Prentice-Hall, Inc., New York.

Other Features

"The South's Economic Losses During the Civil War" covers the pe-

A Southern Historian

From the Chattanooga News.

Press dispatches Monday told of the death in New Haven, of Ulrich B. Phillips, a distinguished historian of the South. Georgian by birth, his professional attainments carried him to Michigan and then to Yale. His specialty was always Southern history. In this, he was a sympathetic student of the section's past, and his keen and penetrating eye saw through many of the shams of the conventional treatment of Dixie before the Civil war. Such of his volumes as *Life and Labor in the Old South* have a vitality which will give them permanence in the literature of our section.

His death cuts short the labor of love he was devoting to a companion volume which was to give the picture of statesmen of the Old South, thus paralleling in the field of statecraft the fine work he had done on Southern social realities. It is greatly to be regretted that this work had gotten far enough along before his sudden death for it to be put in shape for publication.

Ulrich Phillips belonged to a school of historians very useful to the South. A companion in years and service with William E. Dodd of North Carolina, now America's ambassador to Berlin, he reflected a similar historical philosophy.

Their point was that the Old South was far more than a place of moonlight and roses; there was more than the scent of oleander in the air. In part, it was a patriarchal society, with the courage and the crudeness of the frontier. Dr. Phillips saw not one South, but a dozen, and not one slavery system, but two at least, one the commercial, with its coffles, slave jails and auction blocks, and the other with patriarchal relations involving a high sense of duty from the big house to the cabin. Furthermore, he rejected the theory that the Civil war was any "irrepressible conflict," and laid the responsibility for it upon blunder and chance.

Rejecting the emotional tirades of the Abolitionists, and equally discounting the sugary sentimentality of the moonlight and roses school, the Yale historian sought truth and understanding and moved toward it with a style which was a delight to read. The South has lost a just and understanding friend in Ulrich Phillips, but our history has been improved by his thoughtful tillage of the field.

TODAY'S BOOK

COLETTE AND BABA IN TIMBUCTOO, by Katie Seabrook. Coward-McCann, New York. 168 pp. \$2.

Reviewed by FRANCES CHRISTIE SHELBURNE

(Editor's Note: Though The Telegraph does not customarily review children's books, it is particularly pleased to take notice of this new volume from the pen of Katie Seabrook. Mrs. Seabrook, once Kate Edmondson of Dalton, Ga., grew up in the circle there dominated by such writers as Will N. Paine and Robert Loveman. She was graduated from Wesleyan college with the class of 1902. In recent years she has accompanied her husband, William Seabrook, former reporter on The Atlanta Journal, on many of his travels. The results of their observations have been many books, among them Mrs. Seabrook's *Gao of the Ivory Coast*, which was selected by the Junior Literary Guild, and

Mr. Seabrook's *Magic Island, Jungle Ways, Adventures in Arabia and Air Adventure*.

Just as anyone would be, ten-year-old Colette Maillard was excited over plans for a trip to Timbuctoo. Her father, a government official was stationed there; and Colette, with her mother, went to visit him. The boat trip to Grand Bassom was uneventful, but no sooner had they anchored in the harbor than adventures began. The long overland journey with her father and Baba, a Tuareg boy, was marked by strange events and scenes—the locust cloud, the ant village, a snake that bit Baba, his visit to the medicine man, the crude hotels, the boat up the Niger, and the short cut on horseback to Timbuctoo. But reaching their destination did not end Colette's adventures. Excitement and thrills are in the story of a tribal war, a narrow escape from kidnapers and a sand storm.

The book is written in simple diction though not childish. It stimulates an interest in Africa, her natives, and their customs. What boy or girl would not be interested in the big oven where all the women of the village bake their bread, the fummy clothes of the native tribes, and the story of their tribal combat? Who would believe Baba when he says, "There are more camels in the world than horses!"?

New York Times

FEB 17 1934 CUNARD ANTHOLOGY ON NEGRO IS ISSUED

Daughter of a London Hostess
Publishes 855-Page Volume
After Several Years' Work.

SPENT 2 YEARS IN HARLEM

Denounces the 'Oppression' of
14,000,000 in This Country
and Growth of Violence.

Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, Feb. 16.—Nancy Cunard, daughter of a noted London hostess, who has forsworn Mayfair life to devote herself to the cause of the Negro, has just published "The Negro," a voluminous anthology on the race, as a result of several years of incessant labor.

Ranging from her own impressions of a two-year sojourn in Harlem to the contributions of 150 collaborators, mainly Negro, the book, weighing eight pounds with 855 immense pages, covers the problems of the race and its relations with the white race, and reviews the Negro's accomplishments in art,

music, poetry, entertainment and other fields.

The book is dedicated to Henry Crowder, "my first Negro friend." It was after she met this American Negro that Miss Cunard became a passionate defender of the race and endeavored to raise the color

Most of the book is concerned with the Negro in the United States, Africa, the West Indies and Europe. The foreword summarizes Miss Cunard's views, referring to the violence to and oppression of 1,000,000 Negroes in America and the upsurge of their demands for mere justice, that is to say, full and equal rights alongside their white fellow-citizens.

"At no other time in the history of America have there been so many lynchings as in the past two years, so many 'legal' murders and police killings and persecutions of colored people," she writes. "The Scottsboro frame-up is more an attempt to electrocute innocent black Alabamians; it is part of an effort to force into the dumbest ways of life all Negro workers, to aspire to live otherwise than as virtual slaves."

"The forty-eight lynchings of Negroes in 1933 were encouraged by the broadcast sensational encouragement of lynchings from the Governor of California." Miss Cunard concludes that it is vital for the Negroes to pay more heed to communism as the solution of their race problem.

TODAY'S BOOK

NEGRO CHILD WELFARE IN NORTH CAROLINA, A Rosenwald study directed by Wuey Britton Sanders. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, N. C., 326 pages.

Reviewed by ELIZABETH THOMAS

The Department of Public Welfare of North Carolina is considered the model public welfare organization of the South and as such is used as a pattern by other states developing state departments of public welfare. Therefore, it is not surprising that North Carolina was the first state to establish a division for the study of the Negro problem. The chief function of this division has been "the organizing of the leaders of this race in both state and county so that through their ability they may aid the poor, the unfortunate and the orphans of their race, thus protecting both the individual and society as a whole."

The need for understanding the problem of Negro child welfare called forth the study, as described in this book, in the state of North Carolina. The aim of the study was:

"1. To secure such information as will enable the public welfare system in all its branches to function more successfully in extending its services to the Negro population of the state.

"2. To help the institutions now caring for delinquent, dependent, neglected and defective Negro children to understand their problem in relation to the whole field of Negro child wel-

fare and to persuade each institution to make more successfully its own distinct and original contribution to a unified state program of child-care and protection.

"3. To work out a state-wide program for the care of the feeble-minded Negro children in North Carolina."

To make such a study a sum amounting to approximately \$10,000 and the services of a score of social workers were required. Many hours were spent in searching and delving into old records and documents buried in county courthouses and city halls; and every county and city juvenile court in the state were visited in carrying out the formidable task of collecting information.

The study is divided into four parts, namely: I. History and Present Status of Negro Welfare Work in North Carolina.

II. Institutions Caring for Negro Children in North Carolina.

III. Negro Children and the Law.

IV. Negro Children in Home and School.

In a state where there is a Negro population of approximately 800,000, such a study of Negro welfare is particularly illuminating. To my mind, the most outstanding contribution to Negro welfare is that of the Negroes themselves. Despite the accepted fact that the care of dependent and delinquent children is the responsibility of the state, it is necessary for the State Federation of Negro Club Women to operate the North Carolina Industrial School for Girls with the help of a small annual subsidy of \$2,000 from the state. The greatest difficulty as found by a detailed study of institutions in the state is the lack of funds which necessitates bad housing, inadequate equipment, and untrained personnel. Perhaps the most effective work has been done by the Duke Memorial Ward for Negro Children of the North Carolina Orthopedic hospital which excels all other institutions in the South in its service to crippled Negro children.

The study under *Negro Children and the Law* portrays the inadequacy for the care of the delinquent Negro child, the fallacy of corporal punishment, and the crime of placing children in a state prison.

The latter part of the study presents a number of case histories of delinquent children which illustrate the concept that the "best adjustment for the delinquent child is to place him under supervision either in his home or in an environment that approaches home life."

In conclusion, I may say, the people who were responsible for this study had in mind the improvement of conditions relative to Negro child welfare in the state of North Carolina, but the greatest good to come from this study will be the help that it affords the professional social worker and the lay person, not only in North Carolina but in other states, who are interested in developing a social program for the care of dependent and delinquent Negro children.

Bibliography-1934

Negro in the Western World

Negro: An Anthology, edited and published by Nancy Cunard. London: Wishart and Company. 850 pages, illustrated. £2, 10s.

NANCY CUNARD calls her huge book an anthology. More properly it is a one-volume encyclopedia of the Negro race in the Americas, in Africa and in Europe. Comprehensive and illuminating, it sets forth in a completeness unequalled by any other single book the varied activities of that race. Some 150 writers, Negro and white, American, Latin American, African and European, have contributed historical surveys of the Negro's African background and of his introduction to and development in the Western World; as well as accounts of the obstacles facing him both as a Negro and as a worker; of his achievements in education, literature, music, the theatre and the plastic arts.

Miss Cunard's own contributions are among the most valuable in the book. British-born of an American mother and an English peer, she views the Negro in his relations with the white world with singularly rare insight. For her, Harlem is no show place of speakeasies and night clubs wherein comic black folk entertain a jaded world. Nor is the Negro that tragic and forlorn figure the romanticist pictures. Rather he is a man, an American, a worker, handicapped to be sure by the pernicious color-phobia of America, but nevertheless fundamentally akin to other workers.

When she visited Harlem in the summer of 1932 in search of material for her book, Miss Cunard went everywhere: to churches, to theatres, to night clubs, to rent parties and to private receptions, to radical meetings and to gatherings of the strictly race-conscious elements. She saw everything. Keenly observant and gifted with an uncommon understanding she penetrated racial frontiers as few white people are able to do.

She is frankly revolutionary in her outlook, advocating "an all-Communist Harlem in an all-Communist United States." But while her communist bias tends at times to distort her judgment, it gives clarity and pungency to her expression. She writes succinctly, lucidly and with the directness of one assured of the strength of her position.

As to be expected in a work of this kind, there is a considerable range in the literary and critical quality of the contributions. On the whole, however, Miss Cunard has selected judiciously. She brings to the English reading public a number of highly articulate Latin Americans and Africans little known in this country. These she ranges side by side with some of the leading American and European writers and critics: Theodore Dreiser, W. E. B. DuBois, Mike Gold, Langston Hughes, Ezra Pound, Professor E. Westermarck, Norman Douglas, George Schuyler, Walter White, Alfred Kreyborg, Raymond Michelet, Countee Cullen, W. C. Handy, Sterling Brown and Zora

Neale Hurston.

"It was necessary to make this book," Miss Cunard writes in a foreword. One can imagine that the making of the book was for her a great game, to which she gave joyously of time, energy and money. "Negro" is at once a slap in the face of the British dowagers who disavowed her for her association with Negroes, and a justification for her defiance of the restrictive code of Anglo-Saxon society. But it is much more than that. It is a valuable contribution to world literature of the black race.

Harry H. Pace, of Supreme Court of "Beginning Again" Discovers

"BEGINNING AGAIN" is the title of a book just being issued from the press, written by Harry H. Pace, president of the Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Company of Chicago. The book is dedicated to the Men of Diddridge Park. The nature and character of the book is indicated by the following statements taken from the jacket of the publication:

"Here is a book which has been written for the disappointed, disillusioned, and discouraged; for those who suffered losses and whose spirit has been broken; for those whose aims and objectives have not been reached and who have suffered temporary defeats.

For those who are groping in the fog of mental confusion and who have not been able to find their way out, this book points to an immediate path to clear thinking and lays down definite principles of what to

New York World Telegram

DEC 6 1934

HUMAN EXPLOITATION. By Norman Thomas. Frederick A. Stokes Co. \$2.75.

THIS is an indictment, not a prescription. This is a social document, not a political speech. It is one of the most clear-seeing analyses of American economic injustice that we have. It gains effectiveness because Mr. Thomas has written it not to present the claims of his political party but merely to awaken Americans to the enormity of the crimes committed in the name of rugged individualism, free competi-

HENRY LEE MOON.

tion and what orators love to call Americanism.

Mr. Thomas lists numerous abuses, taking up the conditions under which our people live on farms, in small towns and in large cities; citing the housing difficulties, especially in the South; the exploitation of day labor in the fruit lands of the West, where seasonal workers live in the automobile; the heavy load of taxation placed upon owners of real estate; the losing fight of home owners who have had to mortgage their houses. He cites the burdens imposed by the excessive valuation of land due to speculative methods and the impossibility of overcoming these difficulties under present methods. In discussing lumber, oil, coal, milk and other basic products Mr. Thomas points to the excessive waste, emphasizing especially the ruthlessness to be found in the oil industry, declaring that the pipeline system of transportation has been attended by profits unequalled in history "and by complete ruthlessness in trampling down anything which stood in the way of profit. The whole principle of property in oil wells is a legalization of robbery." Mr. Thomas describes the unnecessary drilling of wells, the burning off of valuable gas because the oil industry has no way of using it now and the bootlegging of oil.

LABOR, unemployment, the position of Negro workers among the exploited, women in industry and child labor are also discussed, with a sure grasp on each subject. Mr. Thomas, who has for years fought child labor, cites the difficulties in the way of the federal government's acts.

The child labor amendment has found the opposition of such diverse personalities and forces as Nicholas Murray Butler, Walter Lippmann, A. Lawrence Lowell, leaders of the Roman Catholic Church and manufacturers' organizations. Churchmen are said to fear federal intervention in the education and protection of children more than the intervention of the States.

Mr. Thomas calls his work "making test borings in the various strata

of America." His report is more than a recital of abuses of democratic government and life; it is a call to every man to take stock of the conditions under which his fellow men live.

A society in which the farmers are losing their all, while men playing the races at Saratoga place a bet larger than a year's income for the average farmer, needs looking after.

The story of our wastefulness and insecurity is also the story of where irresponsibility and individual excess have led us. Mr. Thomas' work should be widely distributed among the complacent and the satisfied, for it is one of the most wholesome and exciting books of the hour. H H

Fisk Professor Writes Book On Indian System

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Dr. D. Houston Buchanan, head of the Department of Economics at Fisk University, is the author of a new book, "The Development of the Capitalistic System in India." The book explains the development of the Capitalistic system of India and shows how India is becoming Americanized economically.

Dr. Buchanan has spent much time in India studying the economic conditions and the trend of capitalism in far away India. His trip and study abroad were sponsored by the Bureau of International Research of Harvard University. The book is being published by the McMillin Company.

Dr. Buchanan is considered one of the ablest economists in the field. He has served as Professor of Economics at George Washington University, Washington, D. C.; held a chair in Economics at Keio University, Tokyo, Japan; was Professor of Banking and Finance at Ohio State University, and Tutor and Special Lecturer in Economics, Harvard University. Publication: "Historical Approach to Rent and Price Theory."

Bibliography - 1934

BUYING PREFERENCES OF NEGRO PUBLIC

STUDIED IN HARLEM

New York Advertising
Agency Makes Survey
As Business Aid

New York City, Sept.—(A. N. P.)

—Whether any serious thought should be given Negroes as consumers; whether Negroes show a preference for certain brands of goods; whether Negroes respond to advertising; and whether it is the Negro male or female that influences the purchase of goods are just some of the importance facts that will be gleamed as a result of a survey being conducted by the advertising

agency of Jackson-Caldwell. In response to specific data requested by a group of leading manufacturers, this firm of young Negroes is gradually being recognized as a leader in this particular field. For the next thirty days a small regiment of experienced research workers will start collecting data on every conceivable subject. Surveys have been made to show buying power but this is the first one to indicate brand preference; distinction of class buying; and male or female influence. Newspapers serving this area will benefit by this survey. For instance: the local A. S. P. C. A. estimates

there are 230,000 licensed dogs in New York City. We intend to find out how many of these dogs are in Harlem. If the percentage is high enough, we believe it is, manufacturers of dog food and medicine will be appraised. Local papers concentrating in Harlem will benefit by the increase in advertising. Perhaps they will appeal to more readers by conducting a column devoted to dogs and their care. However many new and interesting facts should be revealed by this survey. Harlem is the area to be covered and others

will be added as soon as possible.

J. A. ROGERS

PUBLISHES AN

ODD VOLUME

Noted Writer Brings Out
Negro 'Believe It or
Not' Book

NEW YORK. — (ANP) — "One Hundred Amazing Facts about the Negro," a "believe it or not" summary of interesting incidents relating to the race, has just been published by J. A. Rogers, journalist and writer, who has traveled extensively in Europe, Africa, Asia and in America.

Among the interesting subjects in the work, is the capture of a colored woman slave which caused a war of two years in the United States in which 20,026 U. S. Army troops were engaged and during which a troop of 110 white soldiers were led by a trusted Negro guide into an ambush in which 106 of them were massacred.

Others tell of an American president who sold his white daughter into Negro slavery and that Ex-Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany has a Negro uncle by adoption and that a Negro servant girl of Italy became the concubine of a Pope and the mother of the ruler of an European country. Rogers is located at 2293 Seventh avenue.

N. Y. HERALD
OCT 22 1934

James Weldon Johnson, Negro leader and author, whose new book, "Negro Americans, What Now?" is published today, said yesterday, in an interview at the Murray Hill Hotel, that "Negroes feel—in fact human beings everywhere feel; it's human nature, you know—that there ought to be some nostrum, some panacea, some quick way out of all their difficulties. There isn't, of course, and never has been. I have written my little book to try to help the Negro realize that it is not action that is needed, but a new attitude, a new course of conduct. The way will not be easy. But I do not agree with Mencken's statement in last month's 'Crisis' that there is no solution to our problem. We have come this far, culturally, politically and financially, and we can reach our goal, though it may take a thousand years!"

THE WHITE MONK OF TIMBUCTOO. By William Seabrook. Harcourt, Brace and Co., New York. \$3. 279 pp.

Reviewed By FRANCES C. SHELburne

All the charm of Africa's cloudless skies, star-filled nights, clay huts, salt caravans, natives with their uninhibited minds, bodies and spirits, is portrayed in the story of this Pere Blanc.

Born Auguste Dupuis on a farm near Chateau-Thierry in November, 1865, he was sent to the parochial school where, due to his exceptional ability in Latin, Greek and Hebrew, it was decided that he should be educated for church service. After eight years of intense training, he was given his parish. The people of the small village loved and revered him—until there was talk of Dupuis and the woman.

He was transferred to another parish; but while assisting an older priest, he fell under the spell of the priest's sister. Again he was confessed and pardoned, but the church began to worry about its son. Yet of his own volition, the young man was a true believer in the essential doctrines of the Roman Catholic church and was equally sincere and happy in his service of the Lord. There was never an open scandal; but the bishop agreed in 1890 to send Dupuis to "help save souls in far off lands—the farther the better."

When next we see Dupuis, he is in Algeria, a novice in the Mother-House of the famous Augustinian Missionary order of the Pere Blancs under His Eminence, the late Cardinal Lavigerie, Archbishop of Carthage and Primate of all Africa. Lavigerie's main ambition was to abolish the church in Timbuctoo. After several unsuccessful attempts to send missionaries into the city, he called Yakouba (thus Dupuis had been titled) from a school where he was teaching.

With Yakouba were sent the Reverend Father Eveillard, Reverend Father Fichoux and a veteran African leader, the Reverend Father Hacquard. Instead of crossing the Sahara by caravan, they went down the west coast and up the river in canoes.

The journey was filled with high adventure. Yakouba, an expert linguist, was able to pick up the dialects of the natives easily. Along the river they fished and hunted for food until they got within dangerous distance of Timbuctoo. From there on the boat stayed in midstream until they reached Kayes. From Kayes a short and uncomfortable rail trip led to the desert.

After four months of dangerous but interesting travel they entered Timbuctoo. With their Arab robes and Yakouba's ability to converse fluently with the natives, little time was lost in establishing a free clinic and chapel. The people, curious, came in throngs. Officials of the city were friendly and Yakouba was immediately impressed with "mystery and beauty where others saw only a vast dirty and forbidding flat agglomeration of houses built like tombs."

From the first, Yakouba's heart was touched. The work flourished and he was given orders to push farther into heathen territory; so he doffed his monk's robes for native costume and married, legally, Salama, a huge and handsome Negress.

Though a deserter from his church, Yakouba's

sincere religion is a part of him. The years follow in busy activity and happiness. He is offered government positions, now lives as the town patriarch, honored, loved and respected. It would be nice to sit on Yakouba's flat mud-roof under the African stars, to see the twinkle in his old eyes and hear one of his tales of romance and high adventure.

(The White Monk of Timbuctoo is published today. Its author, William Seabrook, is a former Georgian and newspaper man.)

Kuminations

By J. A. ROGERS

Aid for Students
Of Negro History.

FOR RESEARCH students and for a wide knowledge of the literature on the Negro there is the monumental bibliography of Dr. Monroe N. Work of Tuskegee Institute. A long-needed work, however, was one that would outline a course in Negro history comprehensively for use in colleges and high schools as well as for individuals who wish to condense their reading or to limit it to some particular field. Such a work, I am happy to say, has now appeared under the title "A Guide to Studies in African History," under the joint authorship of Dr. Willis N. Huggins, teacher of history in the

Bushwick High School, who for the past six years has been conducting classes in Negro history at the Y. M. C. A., and John G. Jackson, a brilliant young student, who has been engaged for many years in research on the Negro in the ancient religions and on the Moorish influence in Spanish culture.

Covers Whole Field.

THIS EXCELLENT work covers the whole field within a small compass. It is 98 pages of condensed information, well bound.

From it one may get a general knowledge of the African, the Negro, or the Ethiopian, whichever you will, from ancient Egypt down to the present. There are chapters on the Negro in Latin America, in the West Indies, the United States, Europe, Africa and elsewhere, with a list of books on each region.

Pungent quotations from some of the books are cited, which of themselves alone make this work worthy of possession. One in particular is from John W. Vandercook's "Tom-Tom," wherein this white author expresses his amazement at the indifference of the black man in the western world to the glory New York City.

of his ancient heritage and the readiness with which he accepts the Nordic falsities about his alleged debased origin.

There are passages from Dr. Huggins' own pen also that I wish were possible to have imbedded in the consciousness of everyone of African descent, whether he suffers from an inferiority complex or not; as the following:

Children Need Story.

"THE HISTORY of our people rightly envisioned is a thrilling story. Our children need it. They cannot fully understand the world as it affects us without knowing something, indeed a great deal, of what we were in the past and how we have come to our present condition. We cannot be fully intelligent American citizens unless we add to what we know of modern governments and social institutions a wider knowledge of governments and institutions which we have created and in which we were dominant actors.

"The time when America will regard us as members, in full and regular standing in its industrial and cultural society, is far distant. We cannot, we dare not, continue to remain indifferent to our own cultural heritage, in the well-nigh vain hope of being grafted into that of another."

Here, indeed, are momentous words. Those "white-minded" Americans who despise things "black" and are looking forward to having the white man open the door some day, and say "Come in, brother," will continue to live in a fool's paradise, even though they be another Zoro Agha.

Mr. Jackson has a chapter on Arab-Moorish civilization, together with the names of several Negro scientists of that period, and a bibliography. This alone is worth the price of the book, \$1.25, which may be had of Dr. Huggins, whose address is 1890 Seventh avenue, New York City.

AMERICA'S TRAGEDY, By James Trustlow Adams. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York 406 pp. Price \$3.

Reviewed by LINCOLN MCCONNELL

As a casual item of news of the little Virginia colony, John Rolfe, who married Pocahontas, wrote, "about the last of August came in a Dutch man of warre that sold us twenty Negars." This was in 1619. Two hundred years later the fruits of this obscure colonial business deal all but destroyed a nation. They did destroy a culture, a way of life, peculiar to Southern civilization, which the world would afford to lose.

John Rolfe's matter-of-fact record of the introduction of slavery to the colonies suggests the widespread acceptance which at that time was accorded the institution. Occasionally, voices of protest would be raised against it, in both the North and the South, but prevailing sentiment classified such objectors as squeamish idealists. It was in New England and for the benefit of the Puritans that, in 1647, the first fugitive slave law of America was passed. It was not until the early part of the Nineteenth Century that attitudes toward slavery began to take on a sectional aspect. In the meantime the economy of the South had become irrevocably bound to slave labor. The astonishingly rapid crystallization of world-wide opposition to the system brought about successive political crises, each marked by growing bitterness.

The civilization of each section became recognized as a menace to that of the other. Although the political tactics of the South were those of the aggressor, Southern people were, in reality, on the defensive, and their being so colored the whole fabric of their thinking during those dramatic years just prior to the war. Their means of livelihood were at stake; their political concepts, once shared—even advocated—by Northern states, were discredited and opposed; their philosophy of life was challenged. Compromise, at last, was no longer possible.

The issues of the conflict were not clearly drawn when the war began. Men of the West declared, and believed, that they fought for the preservation of the Union. The East would have asserted its purpose to abolish slavery. The South defended state's rights, liberty and independence. Probably less than a fourth of Southern white families owned slaves. Among the outstanding generals of the Confederate Armies who had never owned them were Fitzhugh Lee, A. P. Hill, and Joseph E. Johnston. Robert E. Lee had emancipated his slaves before the war began. Jefferson Davis, after secession, said, "In any case, I think, our slave property will be lost eventually." On the other hand, General U. S. Grant, or his wife, had slaves who were not freed until the emancipation proclamation released them.

The outcome of the war was inevitable, though there were times in which it seemed that the daring and genius of Southern armies should force an impossible victory. Less distinguished was the statesmanship of the Confederacy. State's rights and unrestrained individualism were grave drawbacks to its prosecution of the struggle.

Three generations after the desolation of war and reconstruction, a thoughtful, observer sums up in a fine, impartial review, the circumstances and events of the rise of two opposing types of civilization within America. He observes that the tragedy of our nation has been that that section of the country in which was first de-

veloped a broad, sympathetic and humane culture should have been forced to waste itself against the trends of the age: to lose its wealth and be left in ruin and without its proper and essential influence on the rest of a country which needed, and still needs, the cultural and spiritual contribution which the South had to make.

RICHMOND, VA.
NEWS LEADER

OCT 19 1934

Two New Volumes Show How Far Negro Has Progressed in Fiction

By MARK LUTZ.

Let the Band Play Dixie, by Roark Bradford; New York; Harper and Brothers; 1934 (\$2.00).

With Naked Foot, by Emily Hahn; Indianapolis, Ind.; The Bobbs-Merrill Co.; 1934 (\$2.00).

What a distance the Negro has traveled as a character in fiction is best realized by comparing the black men who figure in the books of Thomas Nelson Page, Thomas Dixon and Octavius Cohen with those who come to life in the novels of Julia Peterkin, Carl Van Vechten, Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes, Roark Bradford and Emily Hahn. This latter group presents Negroes as people and not as types; as humans and not as caricatures.

Mr. Bradford, who created "Ol Man Adam," from which came "The Green Pastures," has again shown his deep understanding of Negro psychology in the thirteen short stories of "Let the Band Play Dixie." Here you will find few of those stereotype banjo-strumming family servitors or other rubber stamp figures the white man likes to imagine. Instead of the familiar symbols of good and evil which formerly went into books of this kind, Mr. Bradford gives earthly human men and women working, playing, loving, hating, fighting, and at peace.

Superstitious Lot.

In "Let the Band Play Dixie" they are a superstitious, credulous, illiterate, careless and mercurial-minded group of canebrake Negroes, for the most part. The scenes range from the plantations of the deep South to Mink Eye's, where gin is 10 cents, and to the wharves and river boats. There are roustabouts and their loves and jealousies and fights; naively superstitious girls not far removed from the jungle; bad men of the river, and even two ex-slaves who fought on opposite sides in the war between the states.

These latter appear in the title story and are perhaps the most amusing in the book. "Child of God," winner of the O. Henry prize, is reprinted, and this, with

the powerful "River Witch" and "Cooter," are outstanding in a generally high level of writing.

Emily Hahn goes to the Congo for her scenes in "With Naked Foot," a story about the black Mawa who was so cruelly treated by the white traders of Europe and finally by a white schoolmaster from America. Mawa is presented as a handsome girl whose looks and manner set her apart from other members of her race.

Mawa's devotion to her yellow-colored son is the keynote to her enigmatic nature. Stories of the wilds and their effects on the European are not unusual, but "With Naked Foot" reverses the process and shows the effects of the foreigner on those who live in the wilds.

Miss Hahn's "Congo Solo" of last year established her as having an unusual grasp on the subject of Africa and its natives. In following up this excellent travel book with a novel of Mawa, the author has done more than entertain since she sets you to wondering after reading "With Naked Foot."

W. Stanley Braithwaite Noted Author-Critic To Lecture At A. U. About Books

William Stanley Braithwaite, noted Negro author and literary critic, will lecture "The Place of the Negro in American Literature" in Howe Memorial Hall, Spelman College campus, on Tuesday evening, November 13, at 8 o'clock. The lecture will be sponsored by Atlanta University and the theme is invited.

Mr. Braithwaite has received honorary degrees from Atlanta University and Talladega College. He is the author of the "New Poetry Review", published in Cambridge, Mass., since 1916.

Mr. Braithwaite's widely known works include "Lyrics of Life and Love", "The House of Falling Leaves", "Anthology of Magazine Verse and Year Book of American Poetry" (17 volumes), "The Poetic Year for 1916", "The Story of the Great War", "Our Essayists and Critics of Today", "Sandy Star (verse)" and "Victory! Celebrated by 38 American Poets, with an Introduction by Theodore Roosevelt".

Mr. Braithwaite is well known for his literary criticisms to the Boston Transcript, Verse and Esays into the industry on a large scale says, Century, Lippincott's, Scribner's and the Atlantic. He was awarded the Spingarn Medal in 1918, which is given only for the highest achievement of an American Negro during the preceding year of years.

Wings of Ethiopia

BLACK WINGS, by William J. Powell. Ivan Deach, Jr., publisher, Los Angeles. Pp. 218.

"I BOW MY HEAD in shame," writes Mr. Powell, an instructor in aeronautics, "when I pause to think that, out of 18,041 active pilots' licenses in the United States, only twelve are held by Negroes, and out of 8,651 mechanics' licenses only two are held by Negroes."

The Negro race is passing up an opportunity of a lifetime by not devoting serious attention to aviation. The industry is now on the ground floor and it is not too late to get in on the ground floor and grow with it, the author believes. Not only does the author believe, but he also believes that the Negro to get into the industry as a business proposition, but also because aviation offers solution to many of the Negro's problems.

"The industry already comprises a hundred or more branches, all of which are open to Negroes if they only qualify themselves," Mr. Powell asserts. Entrance of the Negro into the industry on a large scale would solve our unemployment problem, for aviation consists of far more than flying. There are the designing and construction of planes and their distribution.

There are the planning and maintenance of airports. And there are the opportunities of transport, passenger and freight, as well as other commercial uses. All this would mean jobs for Negroes if only they will secure the training and experience and make the necessary financial investment. Mr. Powell does not attempt to explain why unemployment continues to prevail among whites, although aviation and all other industries are in their hands.

But that is not all. Negroes, through the establishment of their own airlines, will be able to circumvent the South's Jim Crow laws in travel. No longer will it be necessary to ride in a stuffy half-coach, close to the engine, nor to endure the bums of a back-seat ride in a bus. When the Negro has his own airlines, all this will be solved.

"Black Wings" tells the story of Bill Brown's effort to make the Negro air-minded. It tells more completely than is elsewhere told the whole story of the Negro in aviation, from Bessie Coleman's pioneering in the field to the trans-continental flight of Anderson and Forsythe. There are adventure and inspiration in the book as well as a complete history. There is also a complete list of licensed Negro pilots, me-

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TODAY'S BOOK

LYNCHING AND THE LAW, by James Harmon Chadbourne. University of North Carolina Press. 214 pp. \$2.

Reviewed by LINCOLN M'CONNELL

Between 1889 and 1932 there were 3,753 lynchings in the United States.

The typical lynching county, the records show, is a rural Southern county characterized in general by social and economic decadence. For example, it is below the state average in per capita tax valuation, bank deposits, income from farm and factory, income tax returns, and ownership of automobiles. Educational facilities are also below the state average.

Several years ago the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching recognized that there are two angles to the problem. The first is that of "raising the general level of social behavior," which is merely another way of saying, "to change people from the kind of people who lynch into the kind of people who don't."

The other angle to the problem is: What can we do with the kind of people we have right now, to reduce or eliminate these savage outbreaks?

It is to this second angle of the problem that the author confines himself. His is no smoking-compartment or after-dinner discussion. He is practical. He suggests certain laws, certain practices, a certain technique in handling situations charged with danger, and he tells why. He points out where this suggestion and that, have been carried out; the results accomplished. Each point is backed up with facts and figures from that wealth of experience in dealing with lynching which would naturally accrue to a country that had piled up a record of nearly 4,000 lynchings in some forty years.

He discusses the use of the military in preventing lynchings; change of venue; and recommends that would-be lynchings be enjoined from carrying out their purpose. Where lynchings occur he would make the counties liable for damages in civil action, the amount recovered to be included in the next tax levy. He would provide for the impanelling of juries from special lists to investigate lynchings and to try the accused lynchings, the prosecution to be conducted by the state's attorney general. Sheriffs and peace officers would be automatically removed by the governor for failure to prevent lynching.

In other words, Mr. Chadbourne's idea is to stop lynching. The records in those states where various items of this complete program have been tried indicate clearly that such a law would be successful at least in distinctly discouraging that element who, in the safety of the pack, can acquire all of the thrill of murder with none of its risks.

Perhaps some day, before we are all civilized to the point where we shall not need such a law, enough of us may become sufficiently civilized to pass such legislation, to deter those who still do need it. If you are interested in such a possibility, you will find Chadbourne's book sensible reading.

TODAY'S BOOK

ALONG THIS WAY, The Autobiography of James Weldon Johnson. Viking Press, New York. 414 pp. \$3.50.

Reviewed by JOHN D. ALLEN

It is no easy task to estimate the significance of the career recorded in this autobiography.

James Weldon Johnson was born the elder of two brothers, in Jacksonville, Fla., in 1871. He grew up in Jacksonville and had the experiences common to a sensitive child and youth in his group, attended Atlanta university, taught school in rural Georgia and in Jacksonville, became a poet and novelist and composer of considerable note, served as a consul for eight years, was connected as executive for fourteen years with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and today occupies a position at Fisk university much like that of Robert Frost at Amherst. In addition, he has practiced law and edited newspapers.

Obviously, here is a man who has lived an active, full, and important life. So important has it been that Mr. Johnson is generally recognized as one of the half dozen most conspicuous leaders in America of his race. Yet other men have led lives similarly full—so many, in fact, that if each were to publish an autobiography, the presses would have little capacity for other matter. Why does one feel that this particular story of self, valid enough for the accomplishments it records, is so much more important and significant than would be the personal history of, say, Clarence Darrow?

The answer cannot lie in Mr. Johnson's style, though he writes clearly, simply, adequately. Nor can it lie in the number of celebrities (among them, incidentally, Mr. Darrow) he brings as friends and acquaintances into the record. The answer must be sought in relation to several questions, themselves not surely solved:

What is to be the future of the Negro in the South, in the United States? Will the race at last blend with the white race, as Mr. Johnson thinks it will (an amalgamation which in his own person he expresses)? If not, what other solution will the South, the United States, propose? If the two races do ultimately blend, what qualities will the Negro contribute to the cross? (Mr. Johnson thinks they will be good qualities, superior to some now exhibited by the whites.) Is his the way—the prideful, resolute, ambitious way—along which the Negro must, for salvation, tread? Answers to these and similar questions the author gives or implies, and doubtless to him they are reasonable answers, and doubtless some of them are reasonable to other persons, including this reviewer. Yet surely the interest and importance of the book rest less upon Mr. Johnson's opinions than upon the indisputable embodiment his life gives to the problems.

Of course, there is always the charm which even a passably written autobiography has for every other human mind. But this one is much better than passably written. Even minor incidents of childhood, woven into the narrative with a few carefully casual sentences, help to give form and direction to the whole. The only

criticism is that the author presents too little of the apparently trivial. It is as if he had designed to exclude every incident and every opinion and attitude which did not clearly contribute to the purpose of showing what one Negro, as Negro, has done—what other Negroes, as Negroes, can do?

The volume has an index and a number of illustrations. It has, more important, a challenge to intelligence which every white Georgian and southerner and American must surely sometime face.

New Book Sees Beale Street As 'Negro Paradise'

MEMPHIS, TENN., Jan. 17. — (AP) — Beale Street is presented as a play-day paradise of thousands of pleasure-loving Southern negroes in George W. Lee's new book, "Beale Street." Lee, a Beale Avenue businessman and politician, and one of the leaders of his race here, announced today that his book had been accepted for publication and would be released soon.

"Beale Street" is in reality a history of the Memphis street made famous by W. C. Handy's "Memphis Blues," "Beale Street Blues" and the "St. Louis Blues." Lee presents it as a street of song and laughter, as a Saturday night "Heaven" for chauffeurs, houseboys, and maids.

A few blocks away from the white folks' main street, there is a block on Beale that Lee describes as the "under-world block," which, he says, "sleeps peacefully throughout the day, but, when the sun sinks into the river and the stars come out, it sings, laughs, drinks, and dances until early morning."

Lee was a lieutenant in the World War. He is a native of Mississippi and a graduate of Alcorn A. and M. College.

Beale Street is described as the "main street of negro America." In addition to the achievements of Handy, Lee dwells at length of R. R. (Bob) Church, widely known negro Republican leader.

Lee gives a vivid description of the beginning of a "Bambula" dance, popular with the Southern negro:

"A lean and lanky man with bony arms and long fingers sat at the piano and played with snap, bowing and swaying his body in tune to the music. A short, black fellow whose face was made vicious by a scar running down one side from the tip of his ear to the corner of his mouth, played a fiddle as if his whole soul was wrapped up in the music. Another sat strumming his guitar with nimble fingers. And still another rattled two pair of black cat bones.

"About 20 or 30 negroes formed a circle around the players, chanting the

blues, swinging their bodies, clapping their hands and touching their thighs in a way that gave the whole scene a jungle touch."

STORY BY BABCOCK ON LYNCHING TREE

University Professor Writes on Genesis of Lynch Law in the United States.

Under the caption of "The Original Lynching Tree" the January issue of American Forests carries an article by Dr. Havilah Babcock of the University of South Carolina on the genesis of lynch law in the United States.

The article is accompanied by photographs of a giant and embattled walnut tree still standing in Virginia under which Col. Charles Lynch and his compatriots punished malefactors during Revolutionary days. Colonel Lynch is depicted as "a staunch patriot who, in the inadequacy of local court machinery, set up his own emergency tribunal and rendered yeoman service to the American cause."

After the unrest incident to the Revolution had subsided, Colonel Lynch was officially exonerated by the Virginia house of burgesses and given the thanks of the commonwealth for his services, the article states.

About Books

Glimpses of a Life

JULIETTE DERRICOTTE, by Marion Outhbert. The Woman's Press, New York. Fifty cents. 56 pp.

Juliette Derricotte was six years old when she first became dimly aware of the barrier which loomed between her and the world about her. She was 15 when the realization that her color barred her from admission to the Lucy Cobb Institute at her home in Athens, Ga., brought her face to face with that unyielding wall. She was 34 when that monstrous Thing we know as race prejudice exacted the final penalty of her pain-racked body.

Juliette Derricotte was lynched. Not, to be sure, by a howling mob. Rather it was the accumulation of the age-old sinister forces which encourage, and supply the mob in more outright collective murders. Seriously injured in an automobile accident on an autumn day in 1931, she was denied hospitalization in the nearby town of Dalton,

Ga. Athwart the doorway to life stood the Thing, that monstrous Thing. Death overtook her as, in the throes of excruciating pain, she was being driven over the rock-ribbed roads of Northern Georgia to Chattanooga for treatment.

What happened to Juliette Derricotte has happened times without number to other Negroes. But here was a woman of international standing in her field as a Y. W. C. A. secretary. She was well known to many important white people. She had culture, position and contacts. The "liberal" white South was embarrassed that this should have happened. They, who had been pointing to improved race relations. They investigated and reported. And today the same thing may happen to any Negro in the South.

In poignantly beautiful sketches, Miss Cuthbert, herself a Y. W. C. A. executive, delineates and interprets the life of her associate. The brochure is not a biography, it is a faithful portraiture of a rarely beautiful life. The reader is permitted glimpses of the girl, Jule, at her home, of her years at Talladega College, of her work as "Y" secretary and her trip around the world, and briefly of her work as Dean of Women at Fisk University. Always Juliette Derricotte seemed able to soar above the sordid barriers which sought to shut her and hers off from that fuller life—always until that fatal ride on a November day in 1931.—H.L.M.

TODAY'S BOOK

COMEDY, AMERICAN STYLE, by Jessie Fauset. Frederick A. Stokes Company, New York. 321 pp. \$2.00.

Reviewed by JEAN OLIPHANT RENTZ
Embittered by an insult in childhood because of her bronze-brown father and inspired by being mistaken a little later for an Italian, quadron Olivia Blanchard Cary spent the rest of her life trying to pass herself and her pale relations as white.

Living in old Philadelphia, married to a man as fair as herself, and with two fair children, Teresa and Christopher, she thought the job would be easy. Her husband kindly and intelligent Dr. Cary, was first indulgent and then irritated. He began to heap up heroes of his race to his children and to engender pride of their racial progress. To make her third child more complete in ideals, by taking him away and keeping him a person of Negroid extraction is very different. Most of the time from this despised Negroid in Philadelphia and in Toulouse, France, from fluence. But she reckoned without Mendel, what it is in Georgia, so different that there is Oliver was born with a bronze-gold complexion, hardly room for comparison. There is "a great Among the close friends of her offspring are gulf fixed" there, just as there is here, though Marise Davies, dark brown of complexion, the piquant featured, bubbling with energy and enthusiasm, her head full of ideas about things as was so freely admitted by the G. S. C. W. theatrical, and admired extravagantly by all of student, the gulf is becoming more shallow, her associates; Phebe Grant, a very fair blonde, Along other shores, the in-betweens flounder with dark blue eyes and gay gilt hair, very helplessly, and in some cases hopelessly. proud of her Negro blood but not so proud of Many a social climber may see himself caricatured her faithless white father; and Nicholas Camp-tured in quadron Olivia Cary, in her insane de-

bell, a youth of "statuesque darkness," warm blooded, a potential heartbreaker. Needless to say Olivia despises Marise and Nicholas and dotes on Phebe.

Dancing in the movies in a perfect setting could not be more romantic or entrancing than the author's picture of Phebe dancing in the arms of Nicholas. But Nicholas and Marise have a strong latent attraction for each other. The author handles her big moments with the emotional sureness and fervor of one richly endowed by nature.

Sent away to what Olivia believes to be a safely exclusive private school, Teresa meets frankly-colored Olicia Barrett and through her, dark and impetuous Henry Bates. Teresa and Henry are swept off their feet, and immediately begin to build extravagant air castles filled with delicious anticipations of a life together. They reckon without the lowering Olivia.

Little Oliver Cary is beloved by all the Negrophiles, and by the author herself. With affectionate deftness, his creator makes him the artistic triumph of her whole cast in every sense.

Christopher Carey could "pass" so easily, but does not choose to. He makes a place and name for himself finally "as is".

Frail Phebe, rebuffed by members of both racial groups because of her blood and her contradictory color, but faithful to her own capabilities and to her beloved race, wins an unexpected and dramatic victory.

A bleak futility pursues all but the strong and faithful. Herein lies artistry.

A Southerner graduated, say from Wesleyan college, in 1917, would not be expected to know firsthand much about "colored intellectuals." Present-day college students know more about them. One of whom I inquired for information on Jessie Fauset in the G. S. C. W. library told me that she had met colored girls in conferences. Y. W. C. A., I presume she meant, who had a lot more sense than she had.

I feel sure that I would never have admitted it as readily and wholeheartedly as she did. Comedy: American Style, was thus more of an eye-opener to me, and will be, I dare say, to most of the other folks, than it will be to those of the younger generation. Struggling against unbelievable and almost insurmountable odds, which must have been some of the author's very own complications, the characters in this book work and suffer and enjoy, and go questing on to heart-sickening, and in a few instances heartening finishes. Though there do seem to be some false notes and some bombastic utterances, the interest in the very human characters is sustained, sometimes breathlessly, throughout.

Needless to say, the atmosphere surrounding a person of Negroid extraction is very different in Philadelphia and in Toulouse, France, from what it is in Georgia, so different that there is hardly room for comparison. There is "a great gulf fixed" there, just as there is here, though Marise Davies, dark brown of complexion, the piquant featured, bubbling with energy and enthusiasm, her head full of ideas about things as was so freely admitted by the G. S. C. W. theatrical, and admired extravagantly by all of student, the gulf is becoming more shallow, Along other shores, the in-betweens flounder helplessly, and in some cases hopelessly. Many a social climber may see himself caricatured in her insane de-

sire to "pass" as a white person, and have all her family do likewise, much to their disgust. Though you don't even aspire to be a Southern intellectual, these "colored intellectuals" may open your eyes to new fields of abundant living.

The book would make a grand moving picture if some of the happy-ending boys didn't get hold of it. For Teresa, unwillingly coerced by her mother, Olivia, but so dominated by her that she made one fatal error thereby failing to put over her marriage to bronze-skinned Henry Bates—for this Teresa who had such high hopes and capacities for enjoying life, they might give a little better break than "to hold her forever to her mistake".

TODAY'S BOOK

STEPHEN FOSTER, AMERICA'S TROUBADOUR, by John Tasker Howard. Thomas Y. Crowell Company, New York. 363 pp. \$3.50.

Reviewed by ELOISE H. ALEXANDER

Though Stephen Foster was born and lived all of his thirty-seven years in the North, he needs no introduction to Southern people. His name is known in every home in the South; and at some time the walls of every cottage and mansion have echoed the haunting melodies of his songs, Old Folks at Home, Old Black Joe, Old Kentucky Home, and Massa's in de Cold, Cold Ground. Eighty years have elapsed since these songs were written; yet Foster's claim to lasting fame is stronger today and his songs more popular than when they were first written. In his own day, his compositions were sung all over the world. Thousands of copies were sold, but they were regarded as merely popular songs of the moment, soon to be forgotten. Musicians now consider them American folk songs, and a valuable contribution to the Nation's musical lore.

Foster, born in Lawrenceville, Pa., July 4, 1826, was descended from the pioneer aristocracy of Pittsburg on his father's side, and on his mother's side, from the Claylands, cultured and well educated people. From them Foster probably inherited much of his musical and poetic genius. His eight brothers and sisters loved music, but none of them showed marked talent along musical lines. The ruling emotion in Stephen's life was his love of home and family. His happy contacts there and his affection for his family are often reflected in his songs. When he married, he brought his bride, Jane McDowell, to board at his father's home; the idea of separation from these loved ones made him unhappy.

Efforts were made to give Foster the best education the country offered at the time, but formal and ordered study did not appeal to temperamental Stephen. He left Jefferson college, after he had been there a few weeks, to become a bookkeeper in his brother's office in Pittsburg. Boats traveling on the Ohio regularly brought there something of the atmosphere of the far South. These influences probably contributed much to the composition of Foster's Southern melodies.

Despite his family's discouragement, Stephen gave up bookkeeping and decided to devote himself seriously to musical composition. His first piece, Tioga Waltz, was written at Jefferson college; Open Thy Lattice, Love, was the first number he had published. He received ten dollars for this song and a promise of two cents

royalty on each copy sold.

Most of the songs that were written during the early creative period of his life had Southern themes and were written in Negro dialect. This fact has caused much comment, as Foster crossed the Mason-Dixon line only twice and then for short visits. He visited the Rowans, cousins of his mother's at Bardstown, Kentucky, for a few days and Kentuckians claim that he wrote Old Kentucky Home during this visit. In recent years admirers have bought the Rowan home and made it a memorial to honor his name. John Tasker Howard, the author of this biography, is a little skeptical about the legend. He says that the title of the song originally was Uncle Tom, Good Night, and could have been inspired by Harriet B. Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin, which was written the year before Old Kentucky Home. Foster later visited New Orleans. Friends who accompanied him referred to his enjoyment of the plantation melodies he heard on the trip.

Neither of these short trips could possibly account for the typically Southern nature of his songs, though they no doubt influenced him to some extent. At the time he began writing, there was a vogue for minstrels or Ethiopian performances, as they were called then. Foster went to see a number of these shows; and as there was a demand for Negro melodies, he naturally directed his talents along this line. He recognized that the songs of the current minstrel shows were crude and vulgar at times, but that they were nevertheless typically American. He brought artistry and sincerity to these songs and made this class of music worth preserving. Another source of inspiration for his melodies probably came through the influence of Olivia Pise, the Foster servant who gave Stephen his first impression of Negro singing. He was often allowed to accompany Olivia to church; the singing and shouting of the colored people appealed to him greatly.

Foster wrote a prodigious number of songs but he received only \$15,000 during his lifetime and his heirs received a little more than \$4,000. His songs have made fortunes for others, yet at many times he was actually in need; and he died in the charity ward of a New York hospital.

In his last years he wrote spiritual songs and love songs but these were not nearly so successful as his Negro songs.

There is a memorial to Foster in South Georgia at the source of the Suwanee river which he immortalized in Old Folks at Home. He never saw the Suwanee river. When he originally wrote the song, the first line ran, "Way down upon the Pee Dee river." He did not like this name, so he consulted an atlas and found the name of Suwanee, which he substituted.

John Tasker Howard deserves much credit for having written such a thorough and comprehensive biography about one of the Nation's best loved musicians.